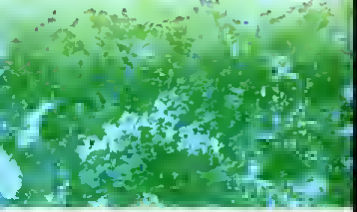
楳図かずお

和歌山県高野山に生まれる。小学生の時からまんがを描き始め、'55年「森の兄妹」を単行本初出版　以後「ママがこわい」「半魚人」「おろち」「イアラ」「まことちゃん」「わたしは真情」など記憶に残る恐怖・幻現実作品や、突き抜けたギャグ作品の傑作を多数執筆。'75年「漂流教室」で小学館漫画賞受賞。'95年夏、「ビッグコミックスピリッツ」に5年半にわたって連載した「14歳」が完結した。



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洗礼

Baptism 4

Kazuo Umezu

楳図かずお

小学館文庫

洗礼
Baptism 4
楳図かずお

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第4巻

楳図かずお

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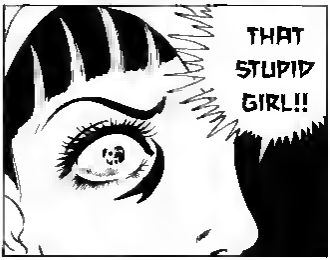
洗礼（せんれい）

HMPH! I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!!
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT ROOM?
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT? I FOUND A LOT OF OTHER HIDDEN THINGS TOO, YOU KNOW. TWEEZERS, SCALPELS, AND MUCH MORE...
H-HOW DARE YOU SNEAK INTO SOME-ONE'S HOUSE WITHOUT PER-MISSION?!
I ALSO FOUND A LOT OF ANIMAL CORPSES. CATS, DOGS, RATS...
IT WAS YOUR FRIEND. A LITTLE GIRL NAMED RYOUKO.
HEH HEH. I'M NOT THE ONE WHO SNUCK IN.

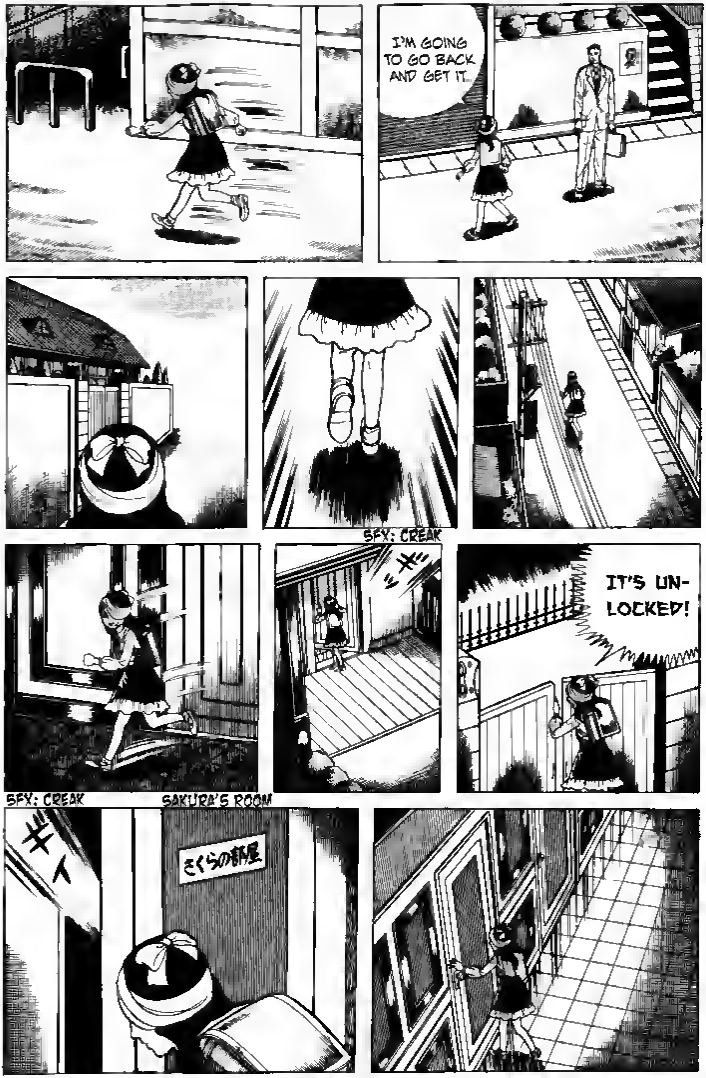
WH-
WHAT?!
SHE JUST ASKED ME TO COME WITH HER. SHE SAID SHE LOST SOMETHING IN THERE; BUT WAS TOO AFRAID TO GO IN ALONE.

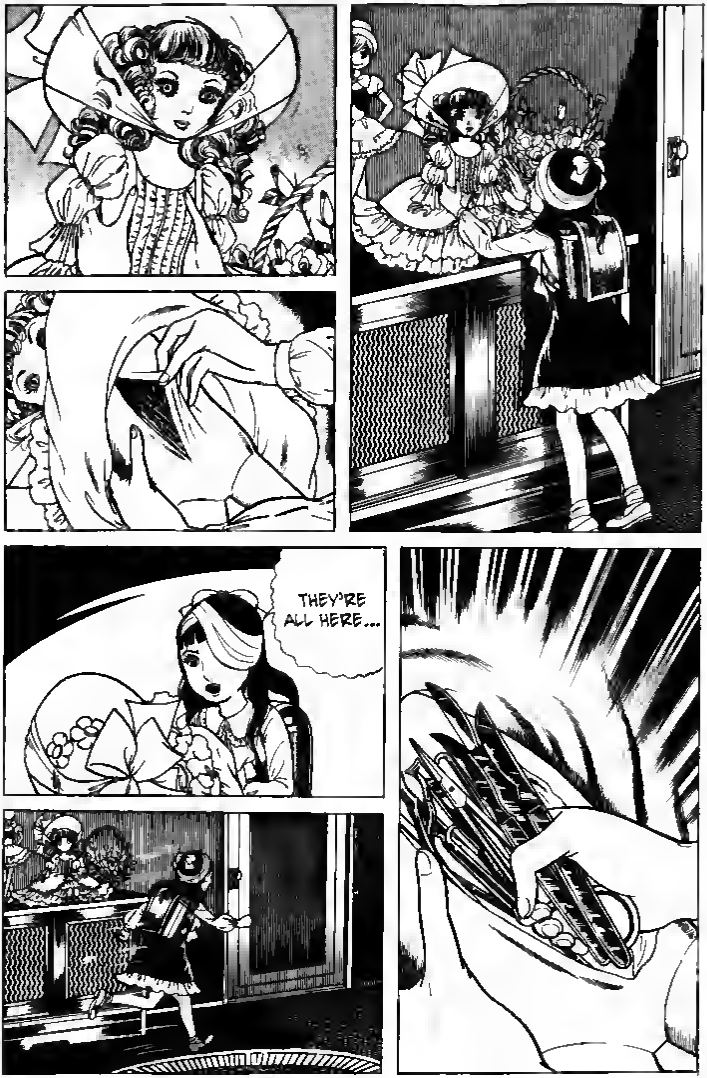

THAT STUPID GIRL!!

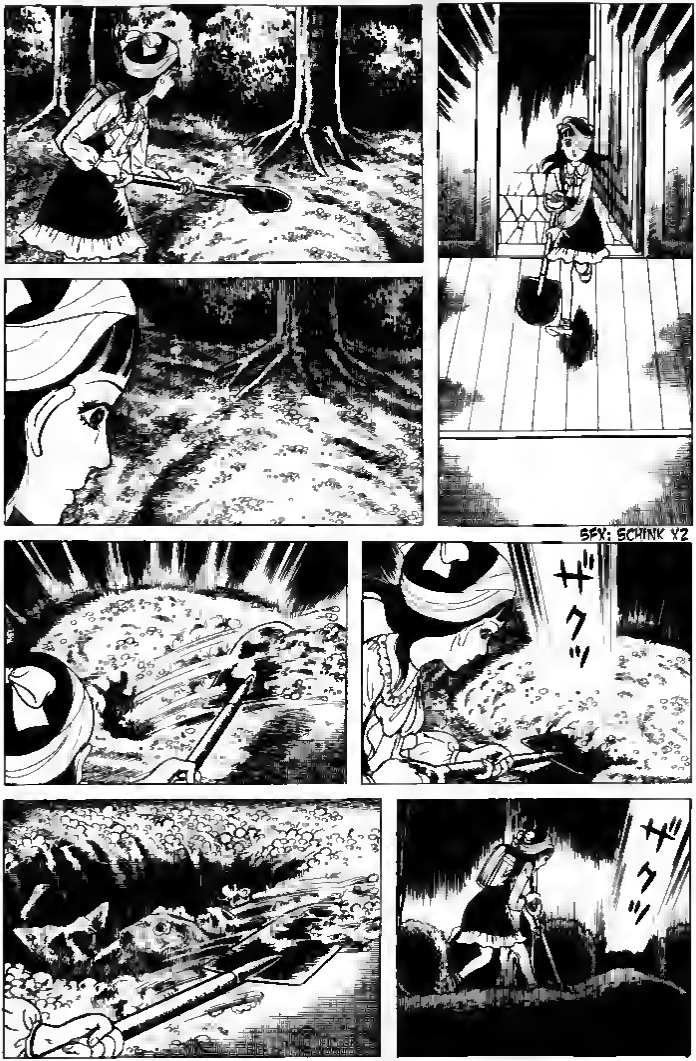
WHAT?!
SHE ALSO TOLD ME EVERYTHING SHE KNEW...

SAKURA.

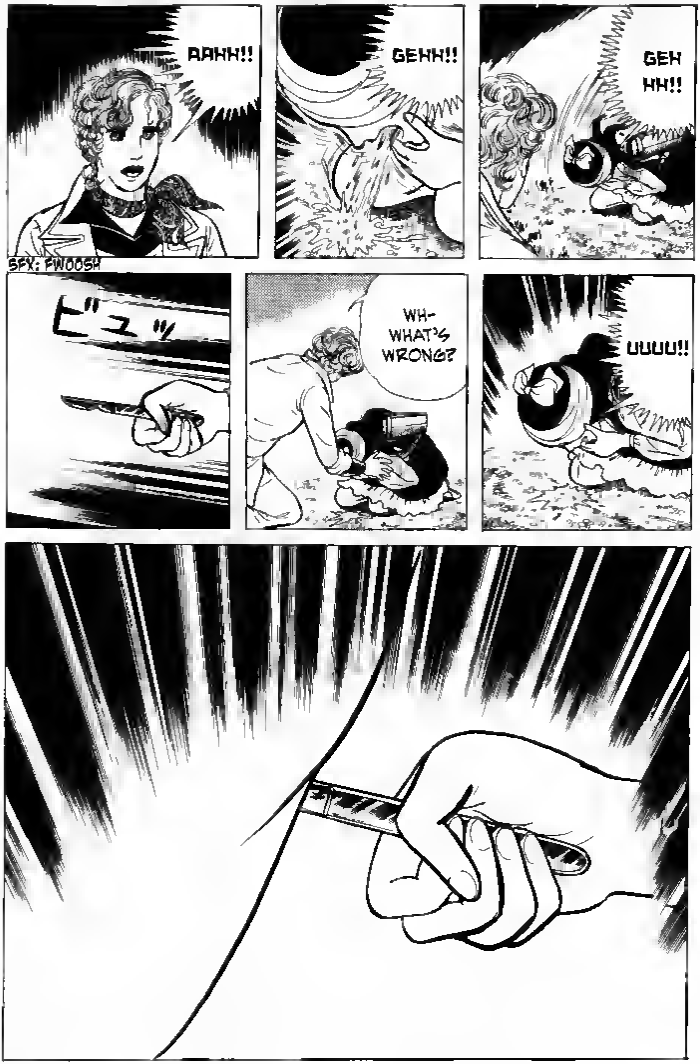
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
COME ON NOW, SAKURA ...
OH, NOTHING. I WAS JUST ASKING HER FOR DIRECTIONS.
SOMETHING BEYOND MY WILDEST DREAMS...
IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO FIND OUT ABOUT MUCH MORE THAN WAKAKUSA IZUMI HERE...
MASAHIRO, I FORGOT SOMETHING.

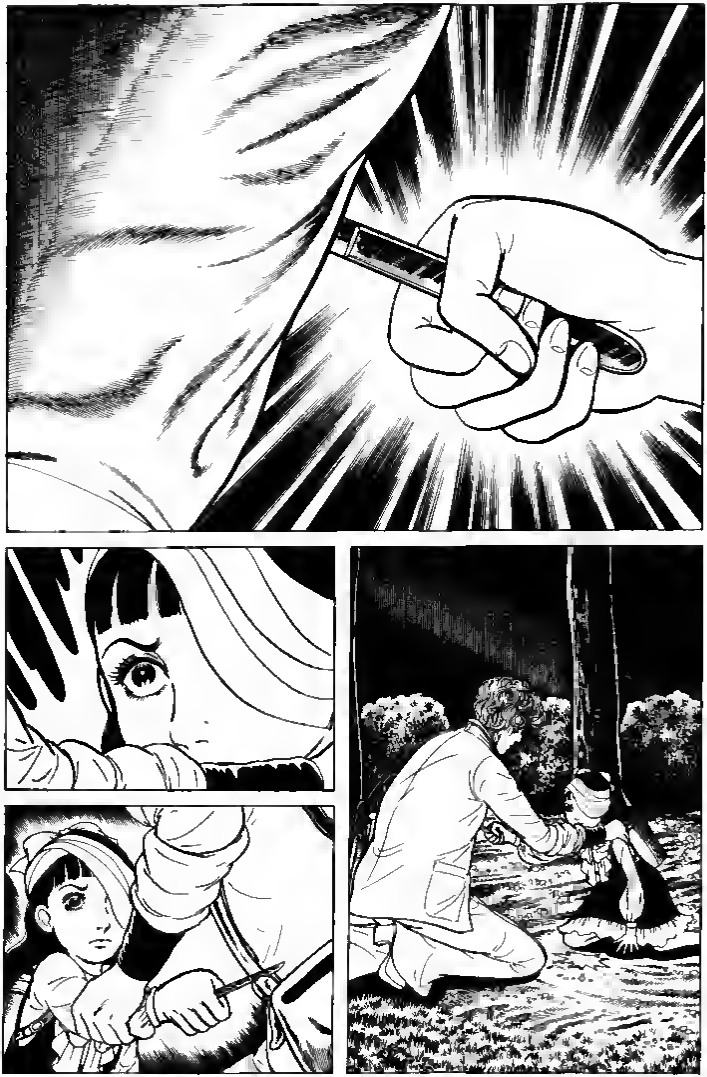

I'M GOING TO GO BACK AND GET IT.
SFX: CREAK
IT'S UN-LOCKED!
SFX: CREAK
SAKURA'S ROOM
さくらの部屋

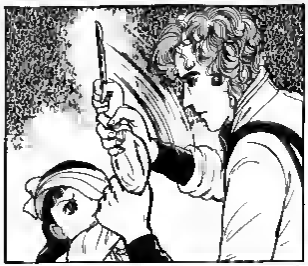

THEY'RE ALL HERE...


SFX: SCHINK YZ
ザクッ
ザクッ

THAT WAS A TRAP JUST NOW...
THEY'RE ALL HERE!!
LOOKS LIKE YOU FIGURED IT OUT A LITTLE TOO LATE, THOUGH.
EXACTLY.
AND WHO PER-FORMED THE SUR-GERY?
BUT WHY?
HOHOH! SO YOU REALLY DID PERFORM SURGERY ON CATS AND DOGS, JUST LIKE I THOUGHT.
THIS IS SO INTRIGUING.


AAHH!!
GEHH!!
GEH
HH!!
SFX: FWOOSH
ビュッ
WH-
WHAT'S
WRONG?
UUUU!!

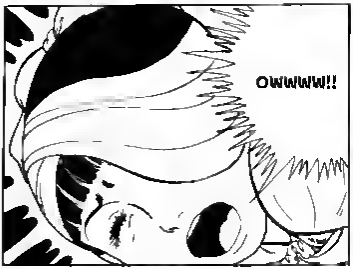




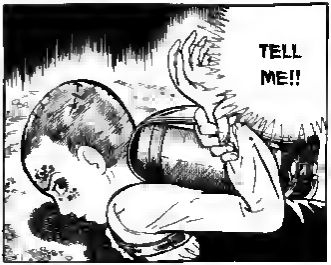
HMPH! SNEAKY LITTLE BITCH!

I FIGURED YOU'D TRY SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

カラ〜ン


OWWWW!!

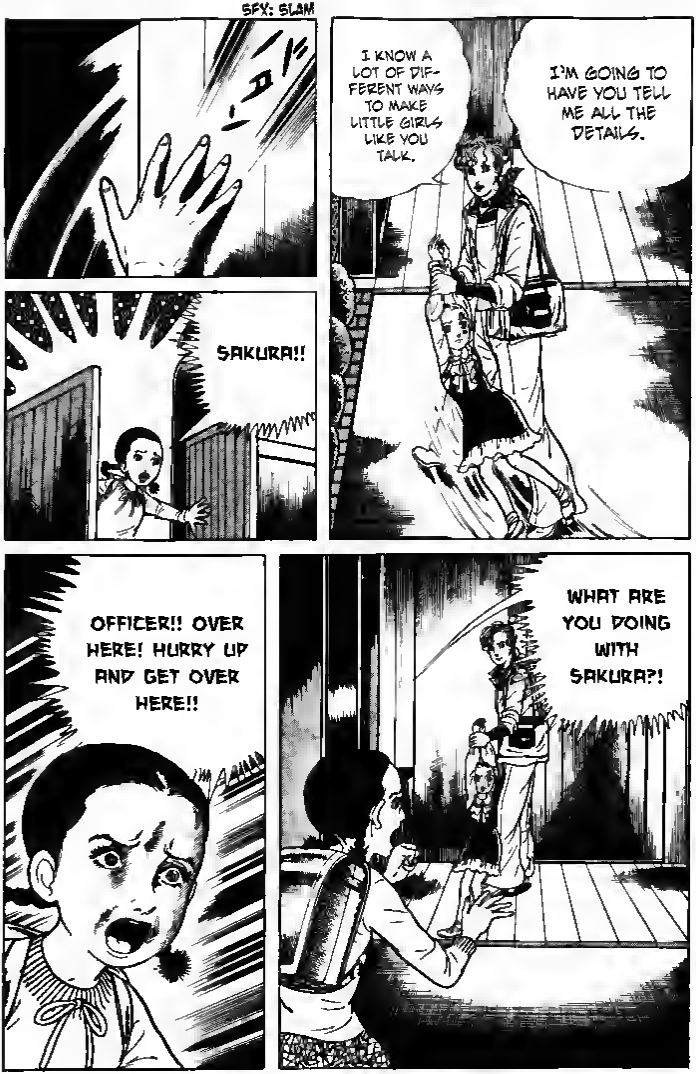
NOW WHAT'S UNDER THAT BANDAGE?!
HEHEH! IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH YOU SCREAM, YOU CAN'T TRICK ME!
AAHH!!
SURGICAL SCARS... AND THAT MARK ON YOUR FACE...


TELL ME!!

HOHOH! JUST WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

THE ANIMAL CORPSES...
ALL THEIR SKULLS WERE HOLLOWED OUT...

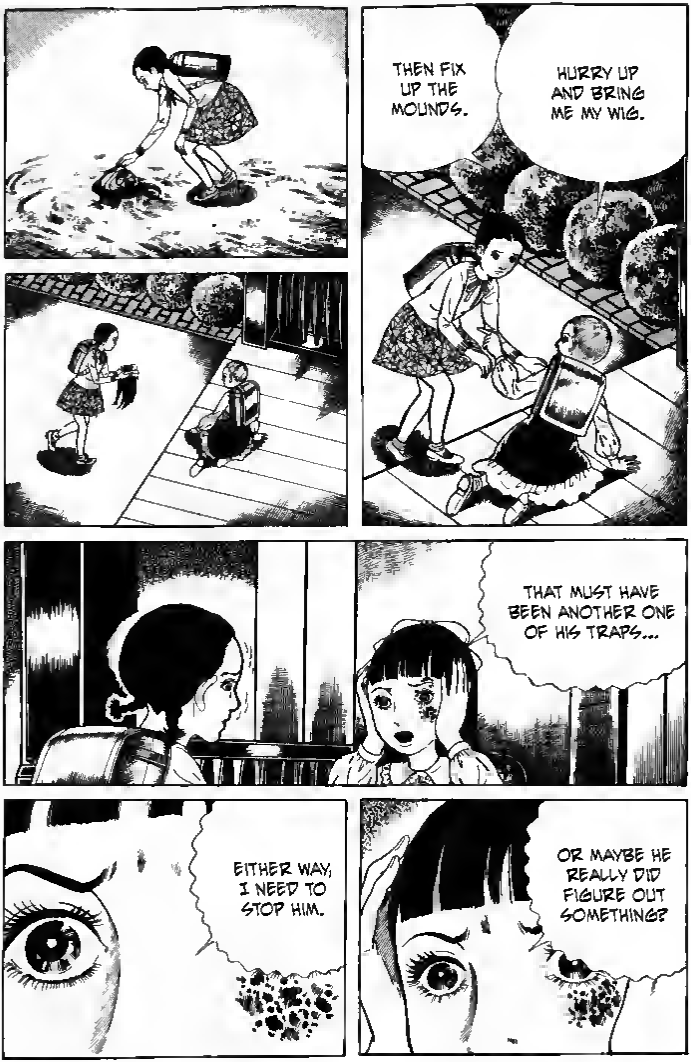
THE SURGICAL SCARS ON YOUR HEAD...
SURGICAL TOOLS, BLOOD ON THE FLOOR...
AND THAT MARK ON YOUR FACE...
HOW ARE THEY ALL CONNECTED?
BUT SHE'S GONE ON A TRIP OVERSEAS...
ACCORDING TO THE NEIGHBORS, YOUR MOTHER HAD A SIMILAR MARK ON HER FACE, DIDN'T SHE?

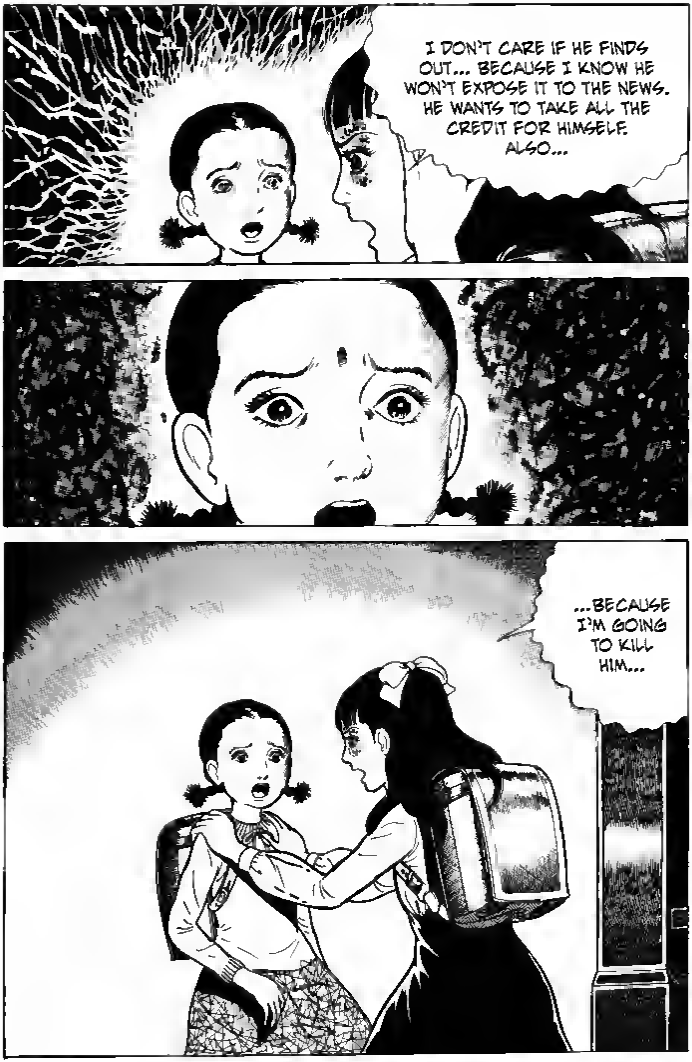

SFX: SLAM
I KNOW A LOT OF DIFFERENT WAYS TO MAKE LITTLE GIRLS LIKE YOU TALK.
I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU TELL ME ALL THE DETAILS.
SAKURA!!
OFFICER!! OVER HERE! HURRY UP AND GET OVER HERE!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH SAKURA?!

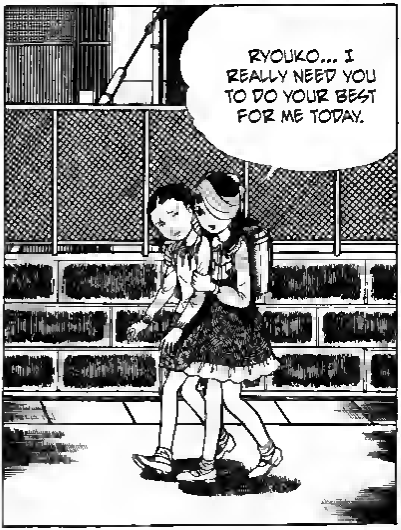
SFX: THUD
KYAA AHH!!
OFFICER!!
YOU REALLY THOUGHT A CHILDISH TRICK LIKE THAT WOULD WORK ON ME?
I KNOW FULL WELL THAT THERE ARE NO POLICE OFFICERS AROUND HERE.
YOU'RE THE LITTLE GIRL FROM LAST NIGHT.

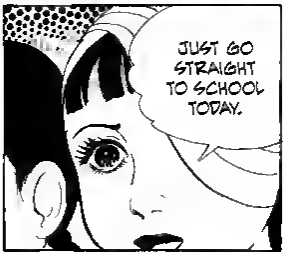
AND BESIDES, THERE'S A REASON WHY YOU CAN'T REALLY CALL THE POLICE.
I'M JUST ABOUT TO FIGURE IT OUT. I THINK I'VE GOT A HOLD OF MOST OF THE DETAILS NOW.
NOW, DID WAKAKUSA IZUMI REALLY GO OVER-SEAS?

CIAO!
I'M GOING TO FIGURE IT ALL OUT SOON... BUT I THINK I'LL LET YOU GO FOR NOW. HAHAHA...
S-SAKU-RA!
RYOUKO, YOU TOLD HIM EVERY-THING, DIDN'T YOU?
I ASKED MR TANIGAWA WHERE YOU WENT, AND HE SAID YOU WENT TO YOUR HOUSE, SO I GOT WORRIED!!
OH, WHAT A RELIEF..
NO!!

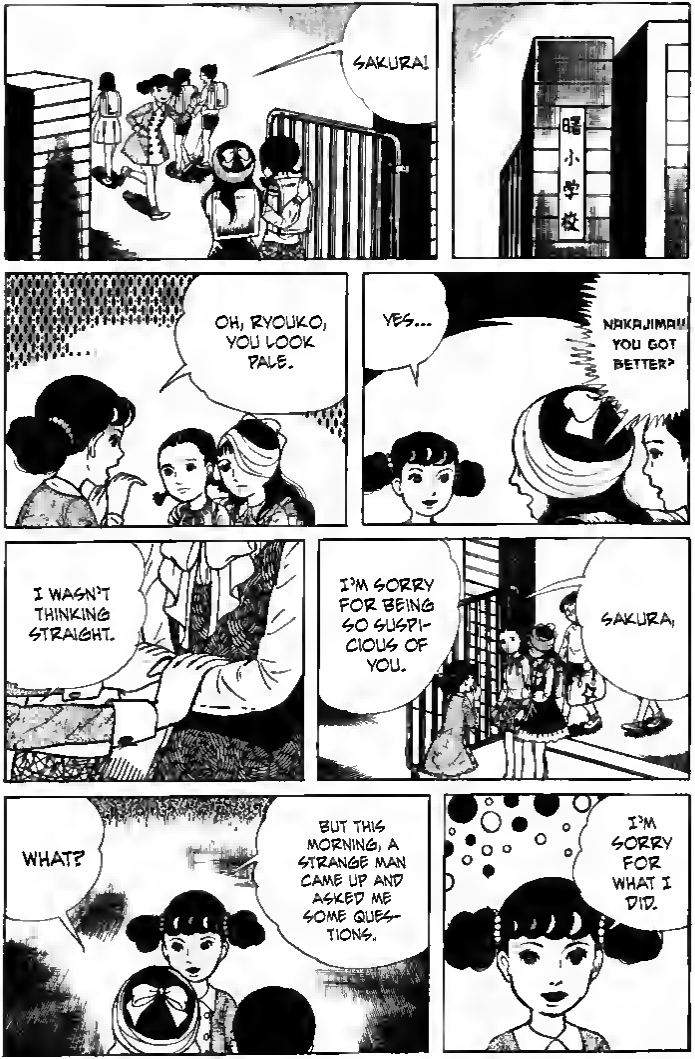

THEN FIX UP THE MOUNDS.
HURRY UP AND BRING ME MY WIG.
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN ANOTHER ONE OF HIS TRAPS...
EITHER WAY, I NEED TO STOP HIM.
OR MAYBE HE REALLY DID FIGURE OUT SOMETHING?

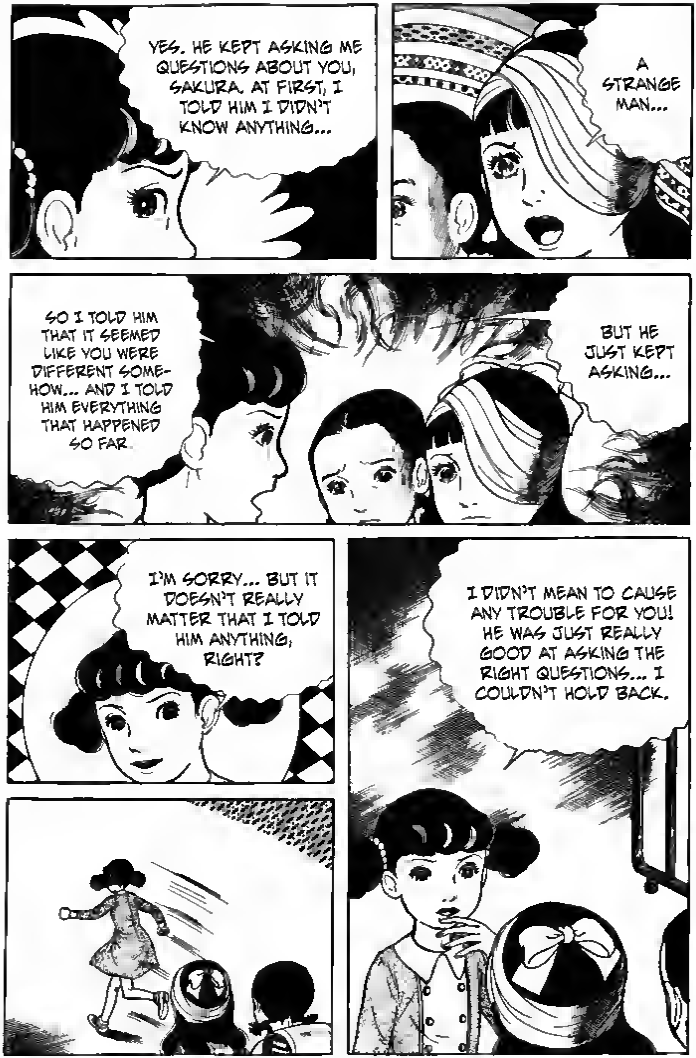

I DON'T CARE IF HE FINDS OUT... BECAUSE I KNOW HE WON'T EXPOSE IT TO THE NEWS. HE WANTS TO TAKE ALL THE CREDIT FOR HIMSELF. ALSO...
...BECAUSE I'M GOING TO KILL HIM...


RYOUKO... I REALLY NEED YOU TO DO YOUR BEST FOR ME TODAY.

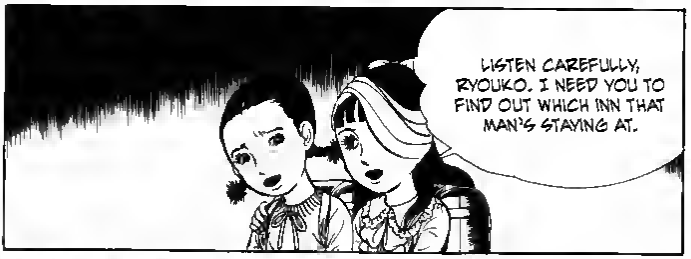

JUST GO STRAIGHT TO SCHOOL TODAY.

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF MR. TANIGAWA'S WIFE AFTER WE DEAL WITH THAT REPORTER.

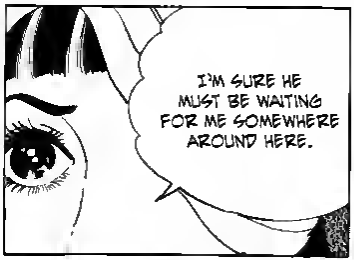

SAKURA!
曙小学校
OH, RYOUKO, YOU LOOK PALE.
...
YES...
NAKAJIMA!! YOU GOT BETTER?
I WASN'T THINKING STRAIGHT.
I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO SUSPICIOUS OF YOU.
SAKURA,
WHAT?
BUT THIS MORNING, A STRANGE MAN CAME UP AND ASKED ME SOME QUESTIONS.
I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I DID.


YES. HE KEPT ASKING ME QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU, SAKURA. AT FIRST, I TOLD HIM I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING...
A STRANGE MAN...
SO I TOLD HIM THAT IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE DIFFERENT SOMEHOW... AND I TOLD HIM EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED SO FAR.
BUT HE JUST KEPT ASKING...
I'M SORRY... BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER THAT I TOLD HIM ANYTHING, RIGHT?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO CAUSE ANY TROUBLE FOR YOU! HE WAS JUST REALLY GOOD AT ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS... I COULDN'T HOLD BACK.

AFTER SCHOOL ...


LISTEN CAREFULLY, RYOUKO. I NEED YOU TO FIND OUT WHICH INN THAT MAN'S STAYING AT.

SEE? WHAT DID I TELL YOU?


I'M SURE HE MUST BE WAITING FOR ME SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.

HMPH! AND LET ME GUESS, YOU WERE JUST GETTING READY TO GO FIND THE INN I'M STAYING AT?

TEE HEE! WAITING FOR ME, WERE YOU?

MORE IMPORTANTLY, I HAVE SOMEONE I WANT YOU TO MEET.
HEH HEH HEH... RELAX I WON'T GET VIOLENT AGAIN.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
OH?
HMPH! NO THANK YOU! I'M NOT GOING TO FALL FOR ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR TRICKS...
HEH HEH HEH...

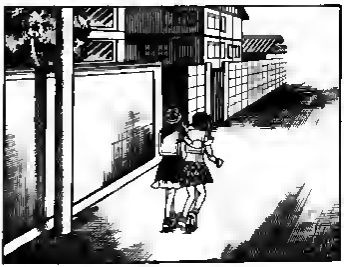
スズヤ精肉店
HEH HEH HEH...
RYOUKO!!

YOU CAN'T FALL DOWN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!!

DO YOU WANT EVERY-ONE TO GET SUSPICIOUS?!

I GUESS WE SHOULD JUST HEAD STRAIGHT FOR MR. TANI-GAWA'S HOUSE.

COME ON! IT'LL BE SAFER IF YOU'RE WITH ME.



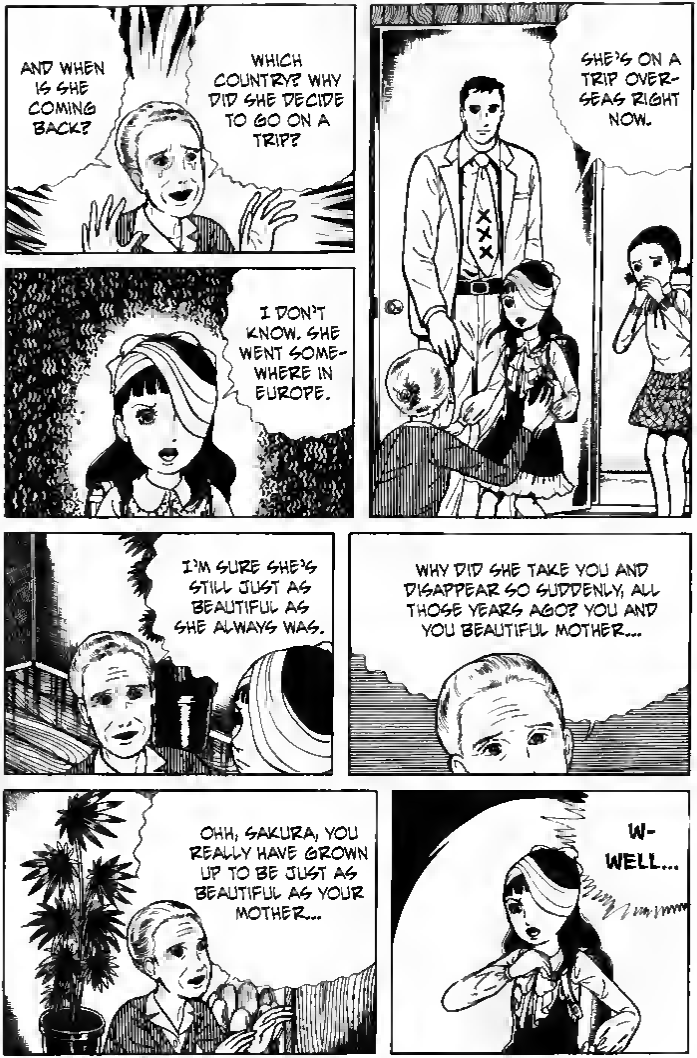
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO GET HOME.
SAKURA.
WHAT?!
YOU HAVE A VISITOR.
AAHHH!!
I GOT A CALL AT SCHOOL SAYING THAT SOMEONE WAS HERE TO SEE YOU, SO I CAME HOME EARLY.

MY MA!...
M...
SAKURA!
OH, MY SWEET SAKURA!!

YOU USED TO BE SO TINY, MY SWEET, BUT LOOK HOW BIG YOU'VE GROWN...
IT'S ME, YOUR MAID!!
THIS BRINGS BACK SO MANY MEMORIES, SAKURA!!
I NEVER FORGOT ABOUT YOU, EVEN FOR A DAY!

...HOW HAPPY YOUR MOTHER WAS WHEN YOU WERE BORN...
IF ONLY YOU COULD HAVE SEEN HOW...
I WAS SO WORRIED! OHHH, SO WORRIED...
BUT THEN YOU SUDDENLY... YOU SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED...

UUU
UUU!!
UUU...
SAKURA!
WHERE IS YOUR MOTHER?
FINE.
HOW IS SHE DOING?


AND WHEN IS SHE COMING BACK?
WHICH COUNTRY? WHY DID SHE DECIDE TO GO ON A TRIP?
SHE'S ON A TRIP OVERSEAS RIGHT NOW.
I DON'T KNOW. SHE WENT SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE.
I'M SURE SHE'S STILL JUST AS BEAUTIFUL AS SHE ALWAYS WAS.
WHY DID SHE TAKE YOU AND DISAPPEAR SO SUDDENLY, ALL THOSE YEARS AGO? YOU AND YOU BEAUTIFUL MOTHER...
OHH, SAKURA, YOU REALLY HAVE GROWN UP TO BE JUST AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOUR MOTHER...
W-WELL...

AFTER ALL, SHE'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN ALL OF JAPAN... NO, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL STAR IN THE WORLD!
YOUR MOTHER MUST HAVE BESTOWED HER BEAUTY UPON YOU!
: WHAT
AAHH!!
STOP IT!!
XXX

SAKURA!
I DID.
I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST CLUE WHO YOU ARE, WHO SENT YOU HERE?!
UUUU...
I WANT TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH, YOU SEE.

WHAT?!
NEVER WENT OVERSEAS.
XXX

AND I WANT YOU ALL TO HEAR THIS.

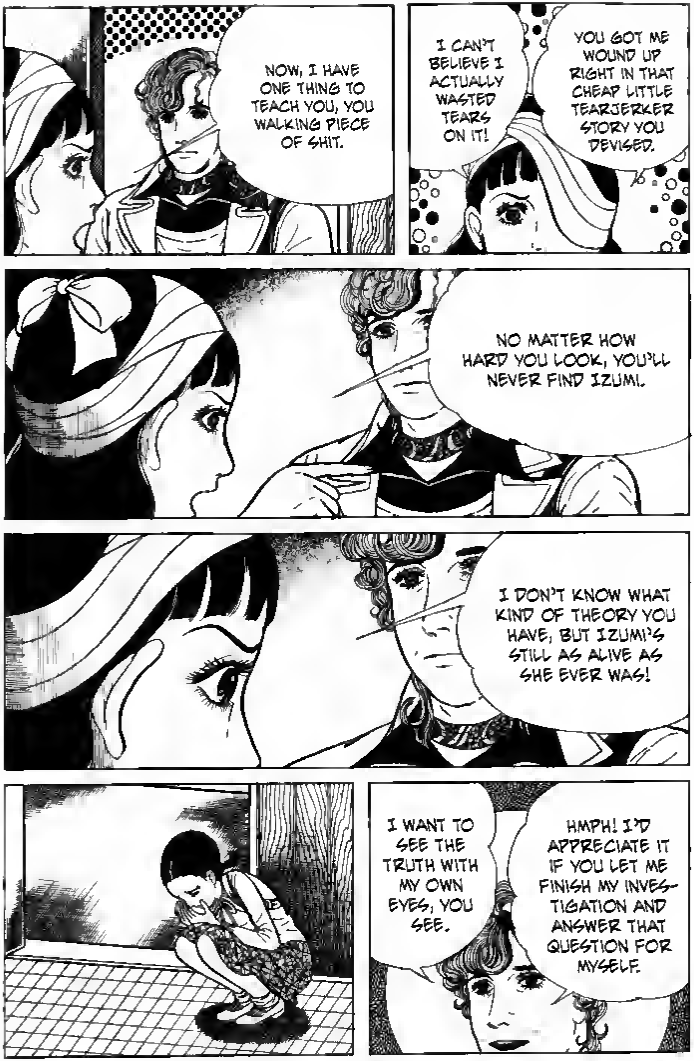
I HAD A FRIEND OF MINE WHO WORKS AT AIRLINE DO A LITTLE DETECTIVE WORK. THAT GIRL'S MOTHER...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IT'S SIMPLE.

IF SHE ISN'T OVERSEAS, THAT MEANS SHE'S SOMEWHERE IN JAPAN.
BUT WHY DIDN'T SHE TELL ANYONE WHERE SHE WAS GOING?
WHAT? MISS IZUMI IS STILL IN JAPAN?
BUT IF I WERE TO REVEAL ANY MORE THAN THAT, IT MIGHT END UP RUINING ALL MY WORK...
THE KIND OF MARK YOU'D NEED BANDAGES TO HIDE...
YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW THIS, MA'AM, BUT AS OF NOW, IZUMI LOOKS HIDEOUS. SHE HAS A HUGE MARK ALL OVER THIS SIDE OF HER FACE.

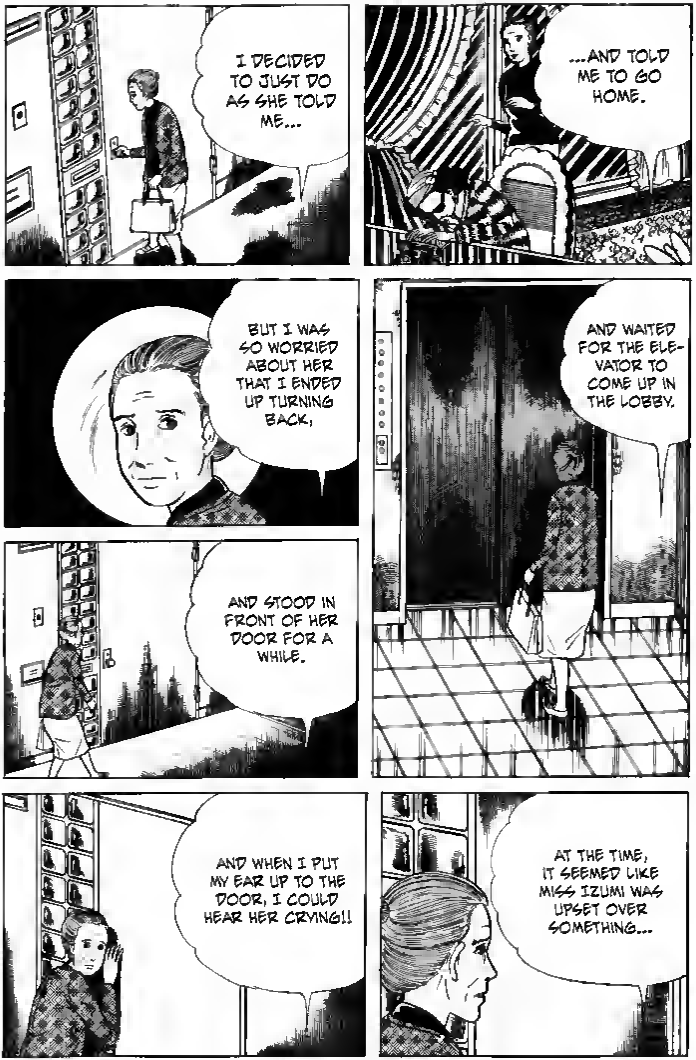
SHUT UP!!
WHAT?
SAKURA...
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH YOU ACT LIKE YOU KNOW ME! I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE REALLY AFTER!
HMPH!! WHAT ARE YOU ACTING SO SURPRISED FOR?
D-DON'T TELL ME THOSE BANDAGES...


NOW, I HAVE ONE THING TO TEACH YOU, YOU WALKING PIECE OF SHIT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I ACTUALLY WASTED TEARS ON IT!
YOU GOT ME WOUND UP RIGHT IN THAT CHEAP LITTLE TEARJERKER STORY YOU DEVISED.
NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU LOOK, YOU'LL NEVER FIND IZUMI.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF THEORY YOU HAVE, BUT IZUMI'S STILL AS ALIVE AS SHE EVER WAS!
I WANT TO SEE THE TRUTH WITH MY OWN EYES, YOU SEE.
HMPH! I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU LET ME FINISH MY INVESTIGATION AND ANSWER THAT QUESTION FOR MYSELF.

INCIDENTALLY, IF I'M A PIECE OF SHIT, THEN WHAT DOES THAT MAKE YOU?
RYOUKO!
I'M GOING TO GO BACK TO TOKYO NOW AND INVESTIGATE IZUMI'S MAIN DOCTOR.
I CAN SEE YOU'RE ALREADY STARTING TO SWEAT I CAN SEE YOU'RE ALREADY STARTING TO SWEAT
HEH HEH HEH... IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY TO ACT TOUGH.
HMPH!

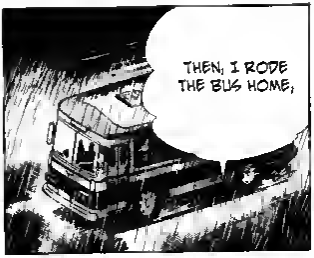
DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?
SAKURA, I TOLD HIM ABOUT DR. MURAKAMI, YOUR MOTHER'S DOCTOR...
APPARENTLY, DR. MURAKAMI IS A RETIRED DOCTOR, AND HAS NO REGISTERED ADDRESS ANYWHERE, BUT I DOUBT IT'LL TAKE ME THAT LONG TO FIND HIM.
N-NOT REALLY...
NOW, EVERYONE, SORRY FOR ALL THE COMMOTION. I PROMISE I'LL FIND IZUMI NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.
XXXX

I ONLY CAME HERE BECAUSE I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY BE ABLE TO SEE MISS IZUMI AGAIN...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF ALL THIS.
WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME IS GOING ON HERE?
OH, BUT THERE'S ONE THING THAT'S ALWAYS STUCK IN MY MIND REGARDING DR. MURAKAMI.
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD TAKE MY LEAVE AS WELL NOW.
IT HAPPENED A LITTLE BEFORE MISS IZUMI GAVE BIRTH TO SAKURA...
SHE CAME HOME IN SUCH A HURRY...

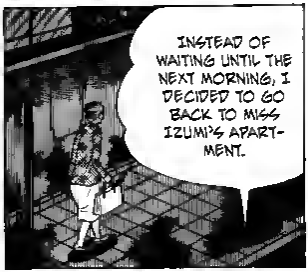

I DECIDED TO JUST DO AS SHE TOLD ME...
...AND TOLD ME TO GO HOME.
BUT I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT HER THAT I ENDED UP TURNING BACK,
AND WAITED FOR THE ELEVATOR TO COME UP IN THE LOBBY.
AND STOOD IN FRONT OF HER DOOR FOR A WHILE.
AND WHEN I PUT MY EAR UP TO THE DOOR, I COULD HEAR HER CRYING!!
AT THE TIME, IT SEEMED LIKE MISS IZUMI WAS UPSET OVER SOMETHING...

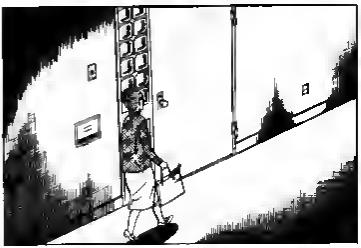
THEN, I SAW ANOTHER INHABITANT ON THE SAME FLOOR COMING MY WAY,
I WAS COMPLETELY AT A LOSS AS TO WHAT COULD BE THE MATTER.
THE ROOM WAS PITCH BLACK,
SO I OPENED THE DOOR AND WENT INSIDE.
I IMMEDIATELY REALIZED THAT SHE WAS SPEAKING WITH DR. MURAKAMI.
AND MISS IZUMI WAS TALKING TO SOMEONE ON THE PHONE.
I COULDN'T BEAR TO EAVESDROP ANY FURTHER, SO I QUICKLY LEFT.
AND THAT SHE WANTED THE DOCTOR TO COME AND LOOK AT HER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BUT I DIDN'T HEAR ANY OF THE DETAILS.
SHE KEPT SAYING THAT SHE FELT LIKE SHE WAS GOING CRAZY,

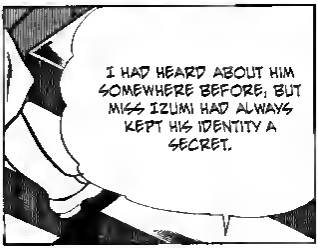
BUT I JUST COULDN'T MANAGE TO SLEEP THAT NIGHT.


THEN, I RODE THE BUS HOME,

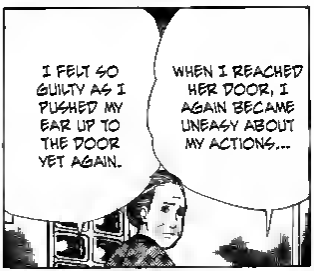
THE DOCTOR WHO HAD CARED FOR MISS IZUMI EVER SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD.
I WAS DYING TO SEE THE FACE OF DR. MURAKAMI,


INSTEAD OF WAITING UNTIL THE NEXT MORNING, I DECIDED TO GO BACK TO MISS IZUMI'S APARTMENT.

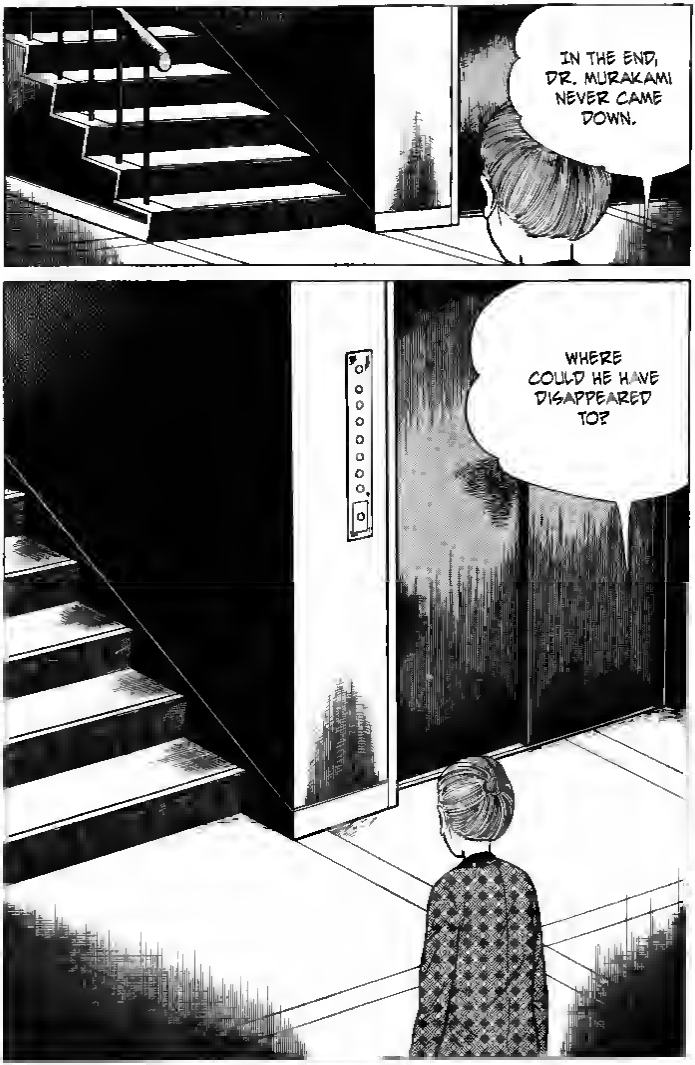



I HAD HEARD ABOUT HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE; BUT MISS IZUMI HAD ALWAYS KEPT HIS IDENTITY A SECRET.

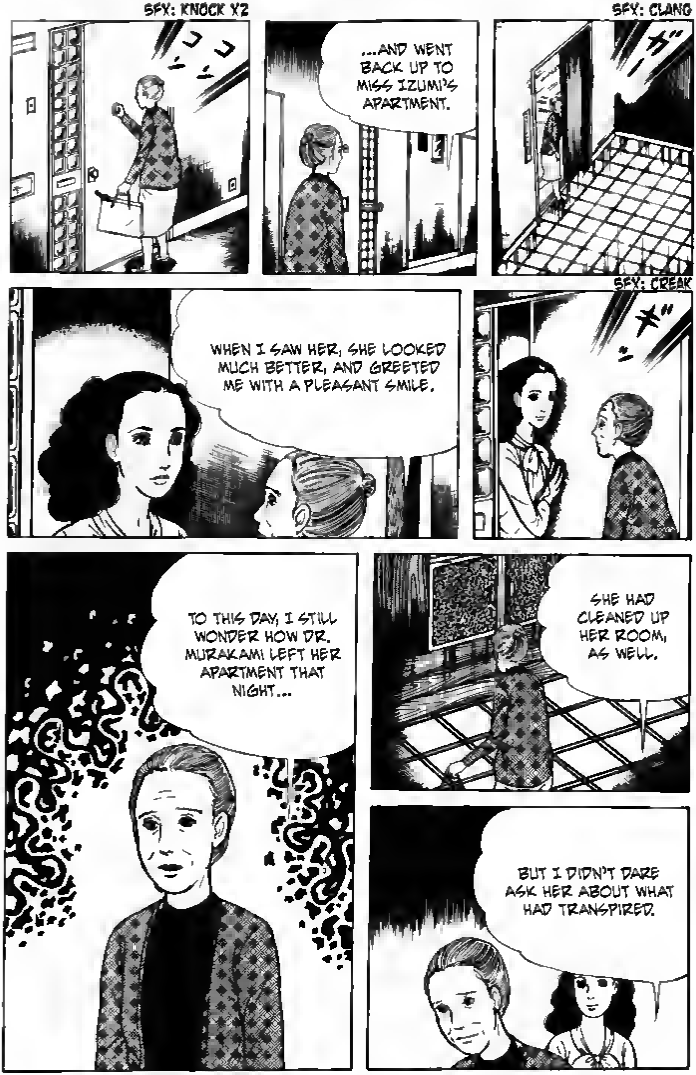
THEN, I FAINTLY HEARD MISS IZUMI TALKING INSIDE.

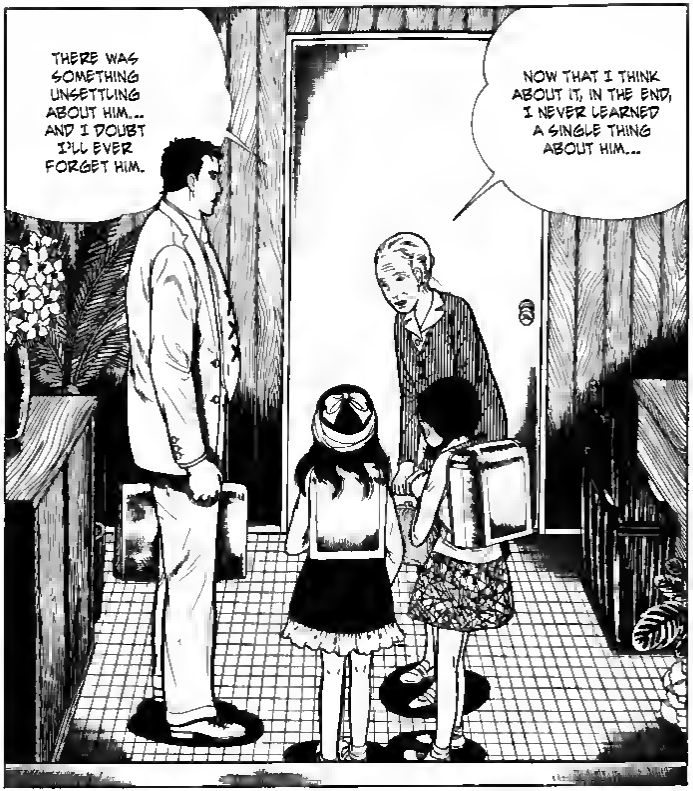

I FELT SO GUILTY AS I PUSHED MY EAR UP TO THE DOOR YET AGAIN.
WHEN I REACHED HER DOOR, I AGAIN BECAME UNEASY ABOUT MY ACTIONS...

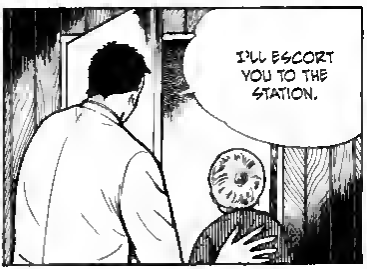
MISS IZUMI'S VOICE WAS ALSO GETTING LOUDER AS SHE SAW HIM OUT.
EVENTUALLY, IT SEEMED LIKE THE DOCTOR WAS GETTING READY TO LEAVE, AND I COULD HEAR HIS FOOTSTEPS GETTING LOUDER.
SFX: RUMBLE
THEN, I LIFTED UP A TREMBLING FINGER AND PRESSED THE 1F BUTTON.
I COULD HEAR THE DOOR OPEN BEHIND ME.
I HURRIED BACK TO THE ELEVATOR AND HID INSIDE.
SFX: CLANG
WHEN I GOT TO THE FIRST FLOOR, I WAITED FOR DR. MURAKAMI TO COME DOWN.
AND I DON'T THINK THERE WAS ANY OTHER WAY TO GET OUT OF THE APARTMENT BUILDING
NO ONE CAME DOWN THE STAIRS, EITHER.
BUT ONCE THE ELEVATOR WENT BACK UP, IT NEVER CAME DOWN AGAIN.


IN THE END, DR. MURAKAMI NEVER CAME DOWN.
WHERE COULD HE HAVE DISAPPEARED TO?

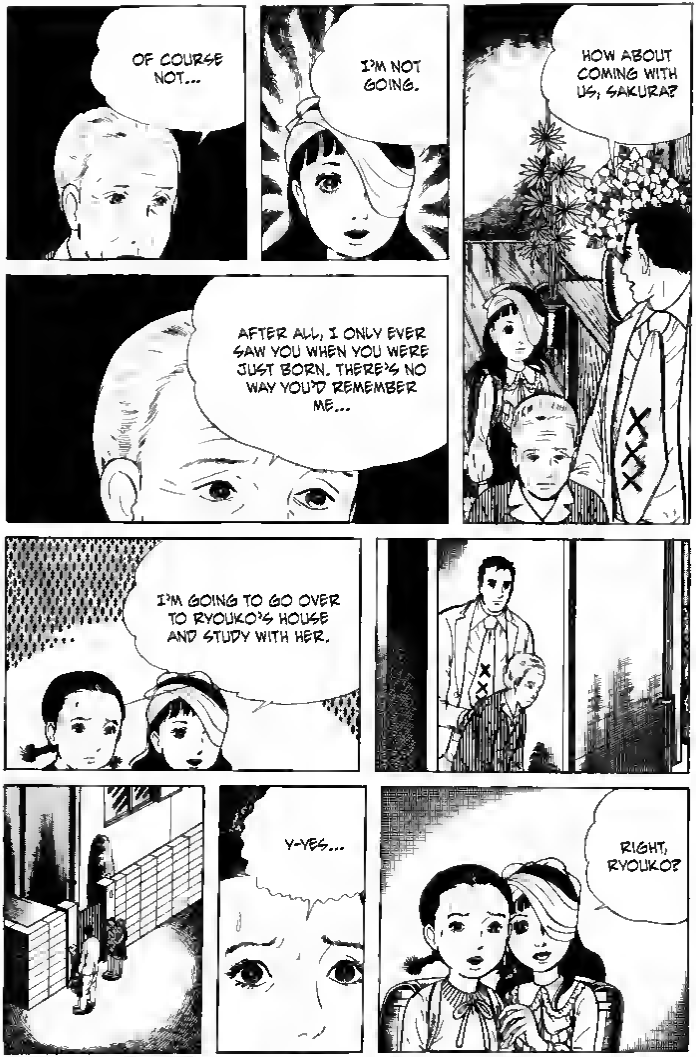
BUT I NEVER SAW ANYONE I HADN'T SEEN BEFORE.
SEVERAL OTHER PEOPLE CAME AND WENT,
SFX: CLANG
SFX: RUMBLE
ゴトン
ゴー
THEN, I GOT BACK IN THE ELE-VATOR...


SFX: KNOCK X2
...AND WENT BACK UP TO MISS IZUMI'S APARTMENT.
SFX: CLANG
WHEN I SAW HER, SHE LOOKED MUCH BETTER, AND GREETED ME WITH A PLEASANT SMILE.
SFX: CREAK
TO THIS DAY, I STILL WONDER HOW DR. MURAKAMI LEFT HER APARTMENT THAT NIGHT...
SHE HAD CLEANED UP HER ROOM, AS WELL.
BUT I DIDN'T DARE ASK HER ABOUT WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED.


THERE WAS SOMETHING UNSETTLING ABOUT HIM... AND I DOUBT I'LL EVER FORGET HIM.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IN THE END, I NEVER LEARNED A SINGLE THING ABOUT HIM...


I'LL ESCORT YOU TO THE STATION.

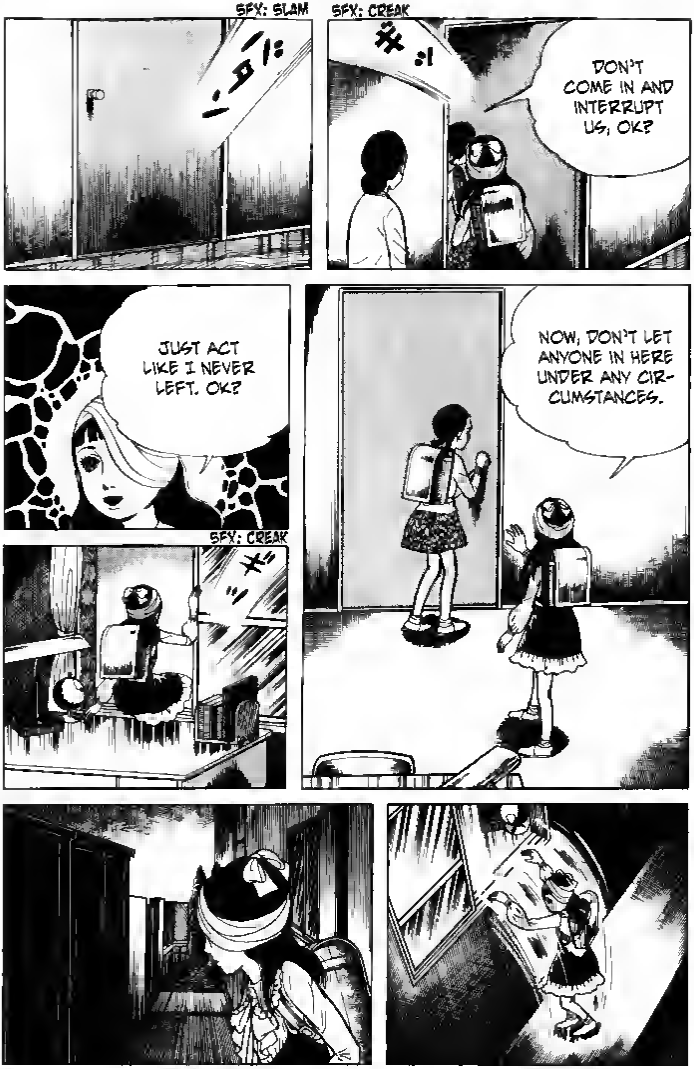
NOW THEN, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.


OF COURSE NOT...
I'M NOT GOING.
HOW ABOUT COMING WITH US, SAKURA?
AFTER ALL, I ONLY EVER SAW YOU WHEN YOU WERE JUST BORN. THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D REMEMBER ME...
I'M GOING TO GO OVER TO RYOUKO'S HOUSE AND STUDY WITH HER.
Y-YES...
RIGHT, RYOUKO?

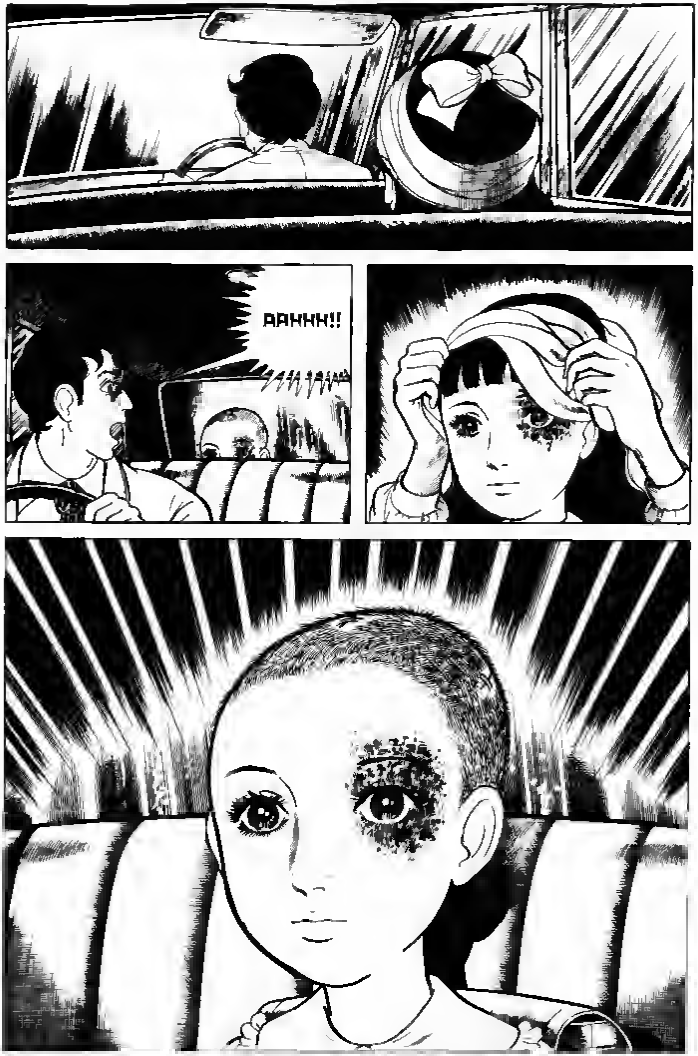
LET'S GO, RYOUKO.
TO YOUR HOUSE...
I NEED TO CALL DR. MURAKAMI AND TELL HIM ABOUT THAT REPORTER.

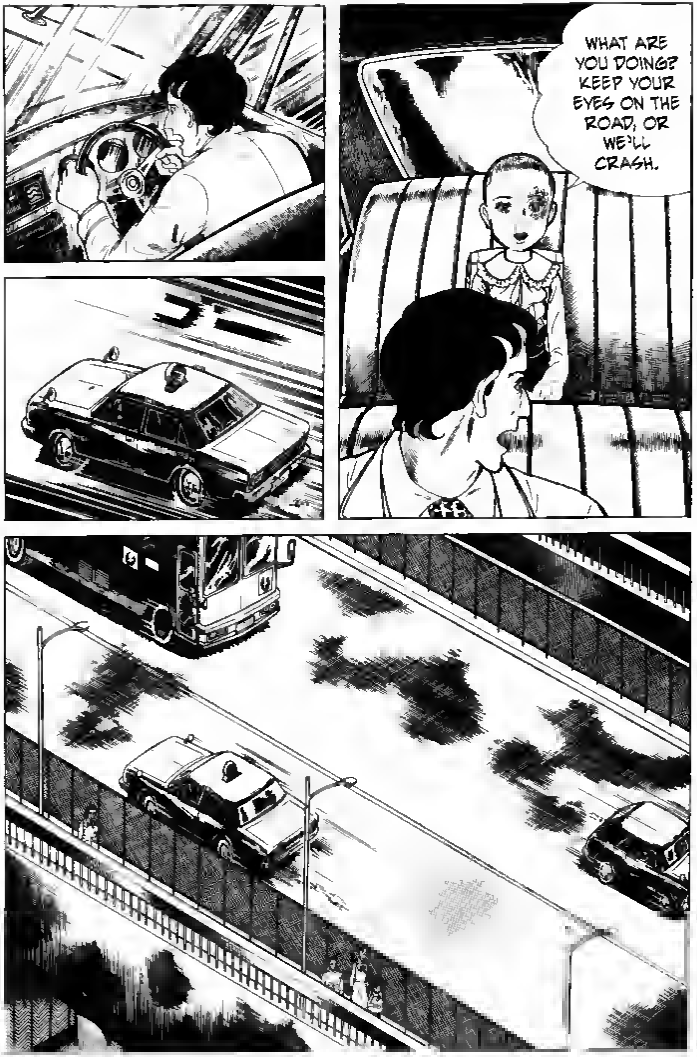
SFX: CLING CLING
ジャッ
ジャッ
タバコ
A REPORTER IS COMING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOU-KNOW-WHAT.
HELLO, DOCTOR? IT'S ME, IZUMI.
I'LL HURRY THERE, SO LET'S TALK ABOUT IT IN DETAIL LATER...
YES... I KNOW...

COME ON, LET'S GO.
SFX: CLANG
ガチャン
HAA, HAA!!
HURRY.
NOW, I WANT YOU TO TELL YOUR MOTHER THAT WE'RE STUDYING TOGETHER.
MOTHER, WE'RE GOING TO STUDY IN MY ROOM.
OH MY.
I-I'M HOME.


SFX: SLAM
SFX: CREAK
DON'T COME IN AND INTERRUPT US, OK?
JUST ACT LIKE I NEVER LEFT. OK?
NOW, DON'T LET ANYONE IN HERE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.
SFX: CREAK

HAA, HAA!!
SFX: SCREECH
TAKE ME TO TOKYO, AND STEP ON IT!
SFX: VROOOOM
SFX: SLAM


AAHHH!!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING? KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD, OR WE'LL CRASH.

ゴー
田尻池
DON'T TELL ME!!

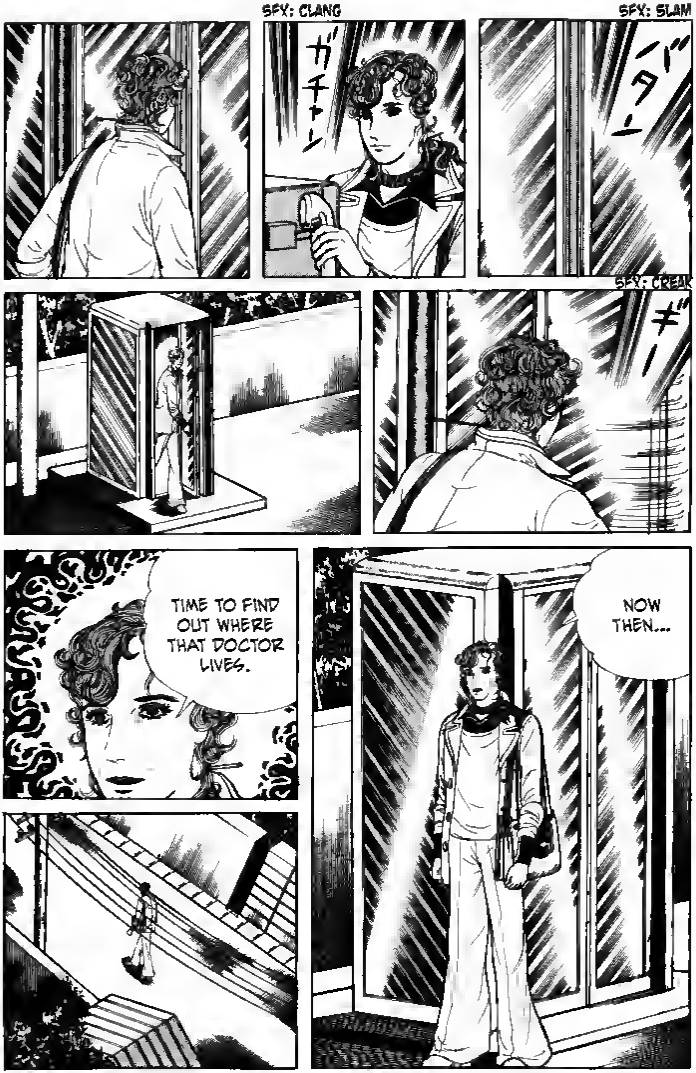
AND HER BRAIN WAS SURGICALLY IMPLANTED INTO HER DAUGHTER'S BODY?
WHAT IF... IZUMI'S BODY NO LONGER EXISTS?
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY!!
NO, IT COULDN'T BE!!
MAYBE..
BUT!!

THEY'RE THE REAL MODELS BY WHICH WE FASHION OUR LIVES.
WE CREATE OURSELVES BASED ON FLEETING, IMAGINARY, IMPOSSIBLE DREAMS...
HUMANS AREN'T GOVERNED BY LOGIC...
I'M NO DIFFERENT MYSELF...
HUMANS WILL CONTINUE TO SIN..
YES! AS LONG AS THERE EXISTS HOPE AND KNOWLEDGE IN THE WORLD.

SFX: FSSH Y3
SFX: CREAK
HELLO?
BOY DO I HAVE A SHOCKER FOR YOU!
THIS IS THE EDITOR FROM THE WEEKLY HOST.

PLEASE SAVE SOME SPACE IN THIS WEEK'S PROOF FOR ME!
SFX: STAB

YES, OF COURSE. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DELIVER IT TO YOU TONIGHT. THANK YOU...


SFX: CLANG
ガチャン
SFX: SLAM
バタン
SFX: CREAK
ギー
TIME TO FIND OUT WHERE THAT DOCTOR LIVES.
NOW THEN...

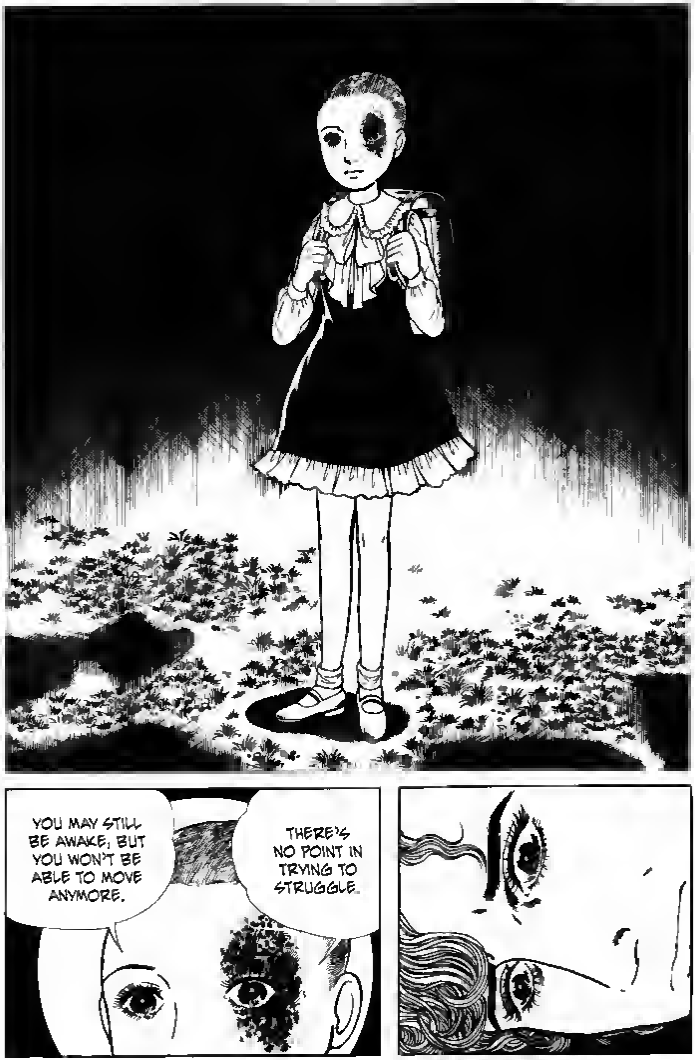
EXCUSE ME.
I THINK THERE'S A MR. MURAKAMI WHO LIVES AT THE FIFTH HOUSE PAST THE CORNER
A RETIRED DOCTOR?
DO YOU KNOW A RETIRED DOCTOR BY THE NAME OF MURAKAMI WHO LIVES AROUND HERE?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THE FIFTH HOUSE...
SIGN. IWAYAMA
THIS IS THE WRONG HOUSE.

MURAKAMI
村上
村上
THIS IS...
MURA-KAMI...

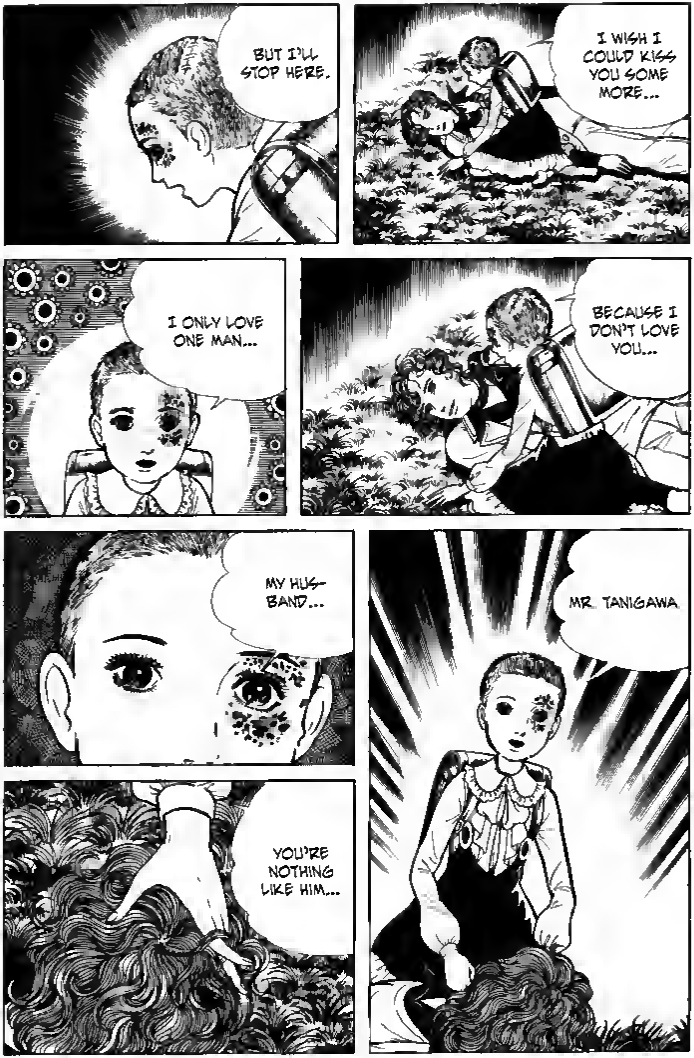
..AN EMPTY LOT!!
UUU!

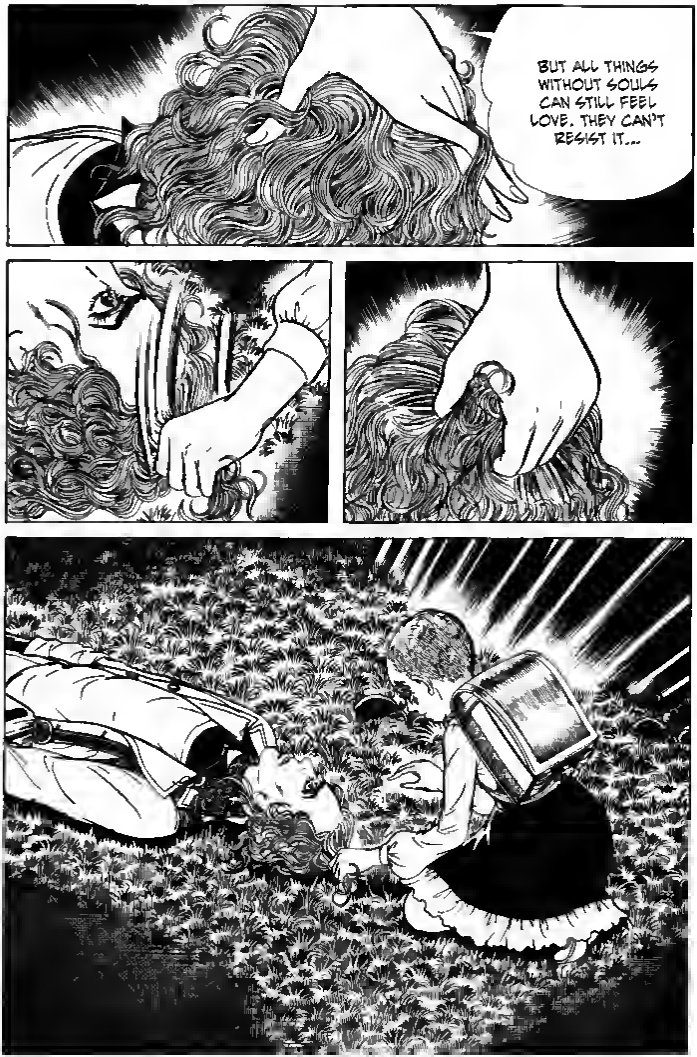
GRRRHHH!!


YOU MAY STILL BE AWAKE, BUT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE ANYMORE.
THERE'S NO POINT IN TRYING TO STRUGGLE.

SFX: DRAG
ズルッ
HO HO HO!
I SWITCHED THE HOUSE SIGNS.
THIS IS WHAT YOU GET FOR STICKING YOUR NOSE WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG. IT'S TOO BAD, YOU KNOW. YOU'RE KIND OF CUTE...

BUT IT'S TOO LATE NOW...
IF YOU WOULD'VE JUST KEPT TO YOUR OWN BUSINESS, YOU COULD HAVE LIVED A FUN LIFE WITH A PRETTY GIRLFRIEND.
I PITY YOU, THOUGH, SO I'LL GIVE YOU A KISS BEFORE I END IT ALL.
YOUR LIFE ENDS TODAY.

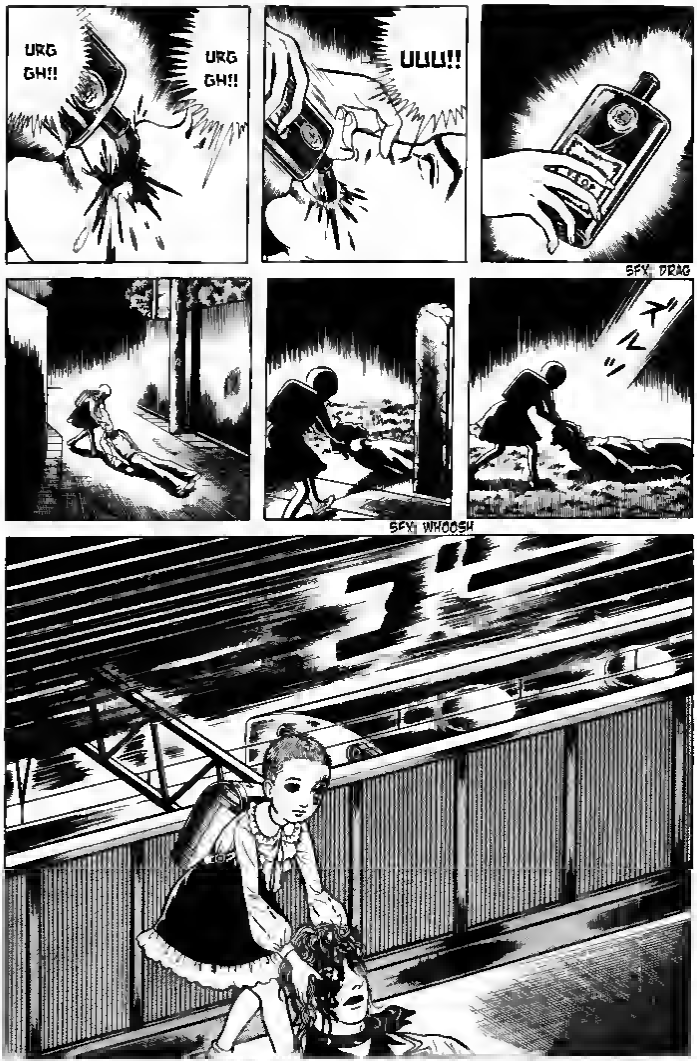

BUT I'LL STOP HERE.
I WISH I COULD KISS YOU SOME MORE...
I ONLY LOVE ONE MAN...
BECAUSE I DON'T LOVE YOU...
MY HUS-BAND...
MR. TANIGAWA
YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE HIM...

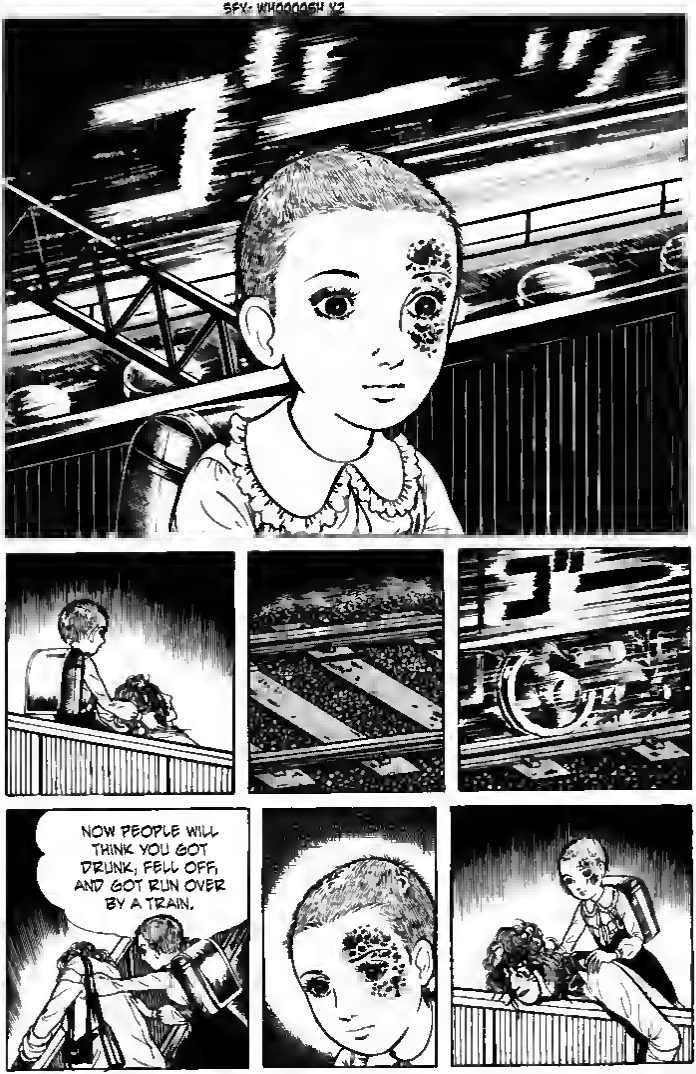

BUT ALL THINGS WITHOUT SOULS CAN STILL FEEL LOVE. THEY CAN'T RESIST IT...

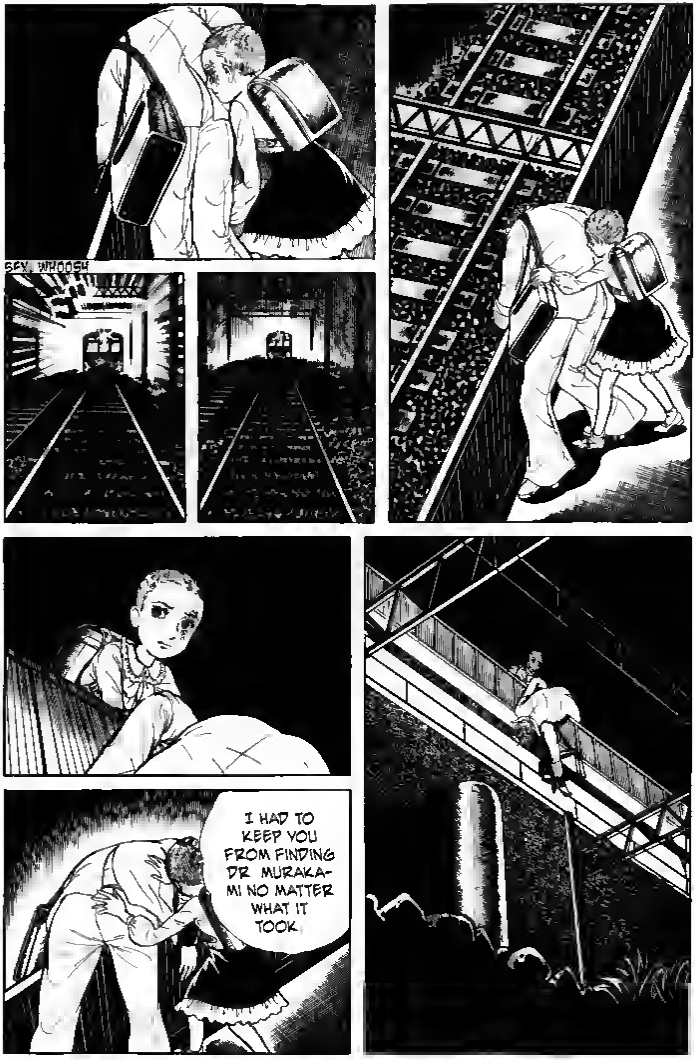
SFX: WHACK
UUUU!!

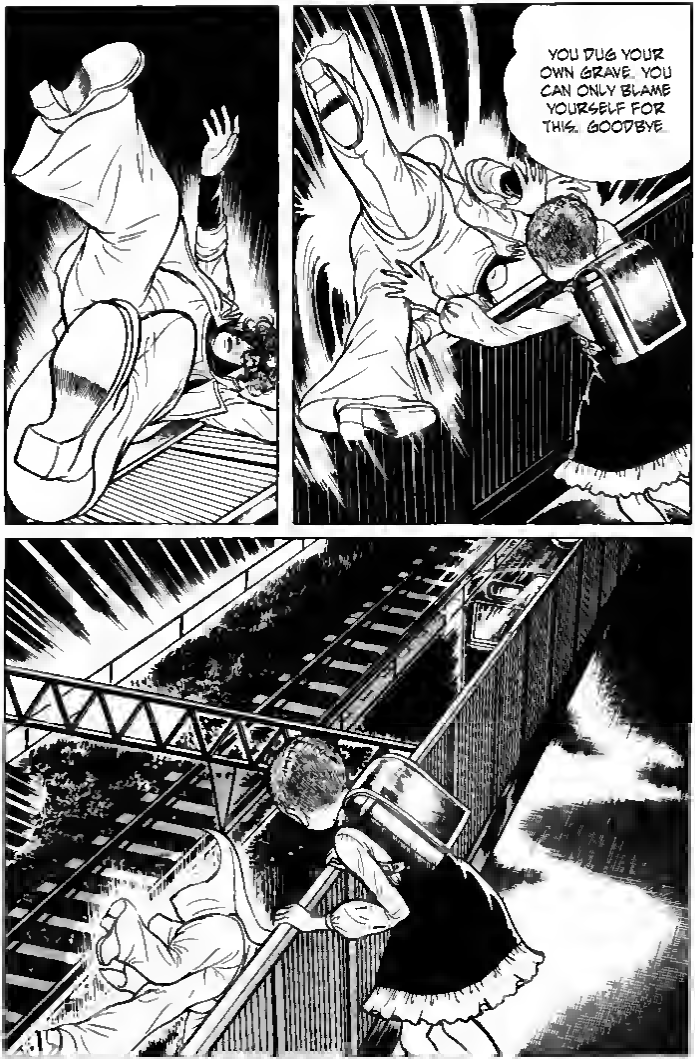
SFX: WHACK X4
SFX: WHACK X2
URGG GH!!
URGG GH!!

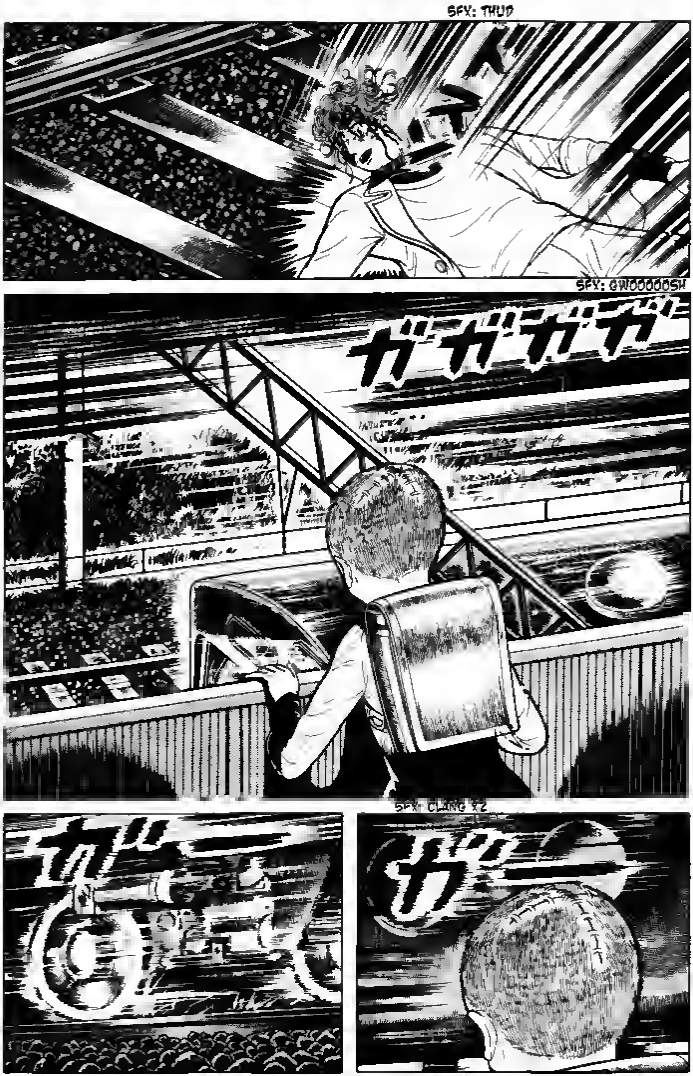
UUUU!!
UUUU!!
HAA, HAA!!
BUT I SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST.
Y-YOU'RE PRETTY TOUGH. .
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE NOW EVEN IF I PULL THE NEEDLE OUT.

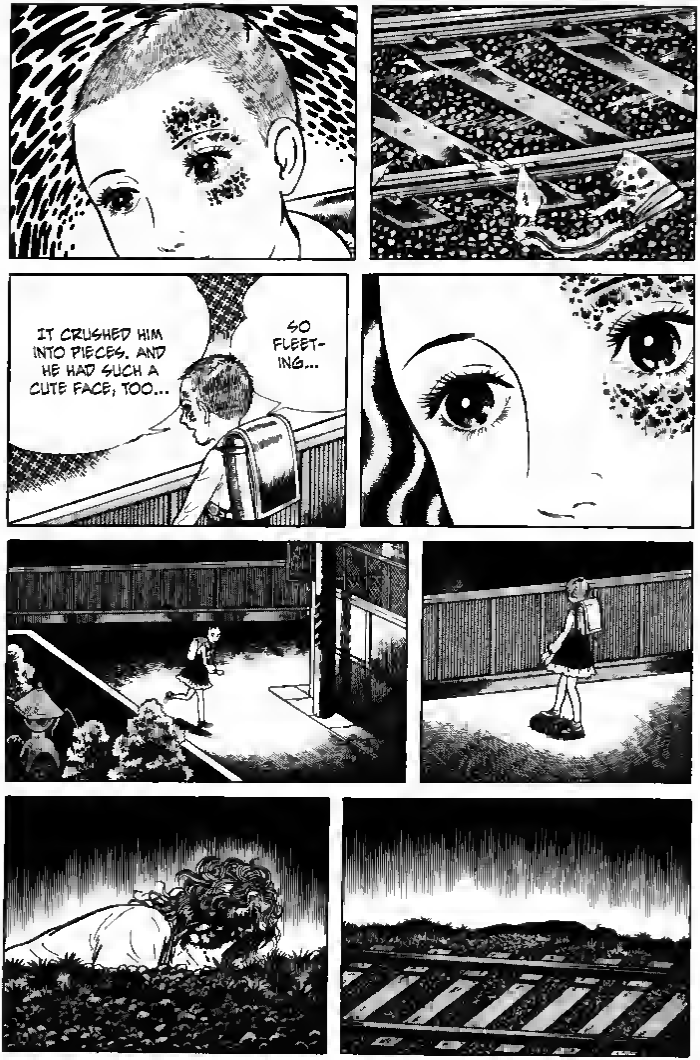

URG GH!!
URG GH!!
UUU!!
SFX: DRAG
SFX: WHOOSH


NOW PEOPLE WILL THINK YOU GOT DRUNK, FELL OFF, AND GOT RUN OVER BY A TRAIN.


SCV WHOOSH
I HAD TO KEEP YOU FROM FINDING DR MURAKAMI NO MATTER WHAT IT TOOK.

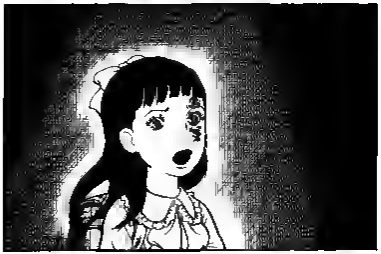

YOU DUG YOUR OWN GRAVE. YOU CAN ONLY BLAME YOURSELF FOR THIS. GOODBYE.

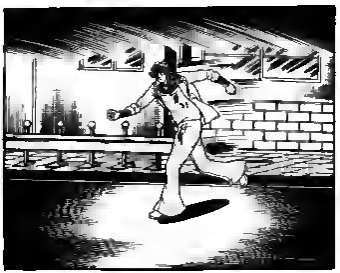

SFX: THUD
SFX: GWOOOOOSH
ガガガガ
SFX: CLANG X2

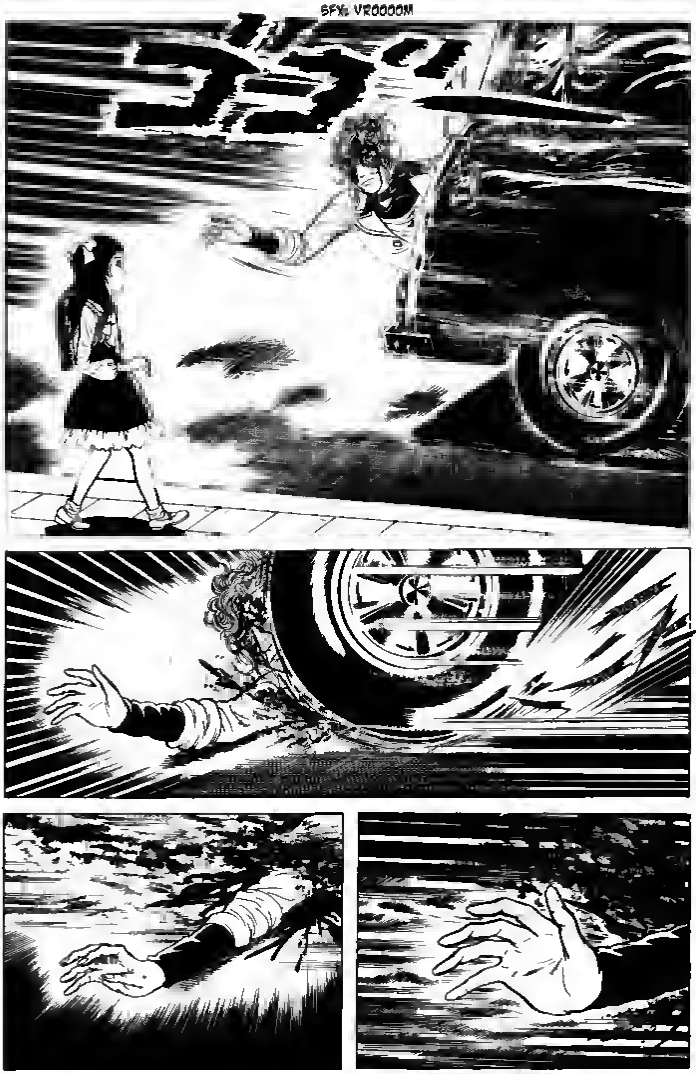

IT CRUSHED HIM INTO PIECES. AND HE HAD SUCH A CUTE FACE, TOO...
SO FLEET-ING...

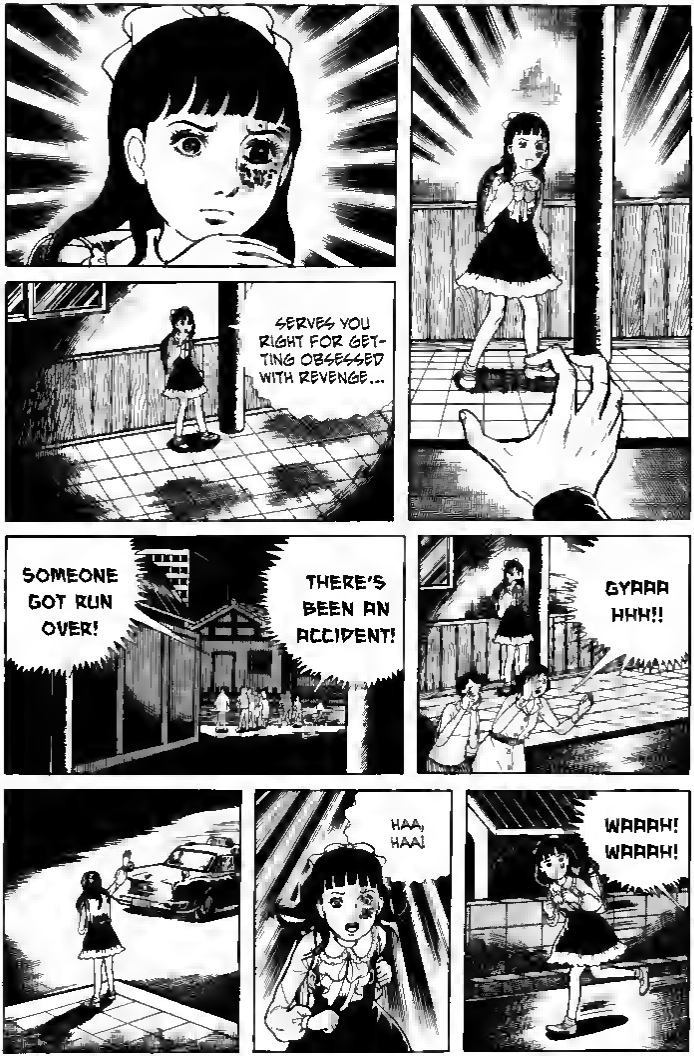
I NEED TO GET BACK.

I NEED TO FIND A TAXI AND GET BACK. RYOUKO'S WAITING FOR ME.
ALL THE TAXIS ARE FULL...
AAHHH!!





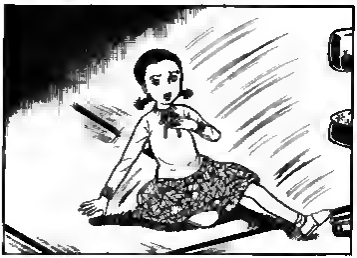

SFX: VROOOOM

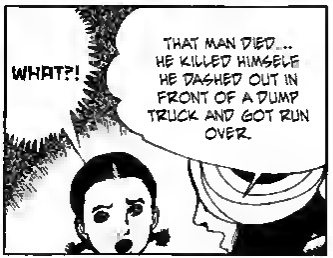

SERVES YOU RIGHT FOR GETTING OBSESSED WITH REVENGE...
SOMEONE GOT RUN OVER!
THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT!
GYAAA HHH!!
HAA, HAA!
WAAAH! WAAAH!

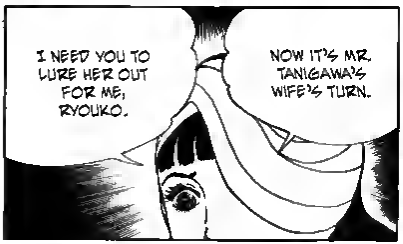
SFX: SLAM
バン
SFX: KNOCK X2
コンコン
RYOUKO.
AHH!!
SFX: CREAAAK
S-SAKU-
RA!!

WHA...
EVERYTHING WENT WELL.

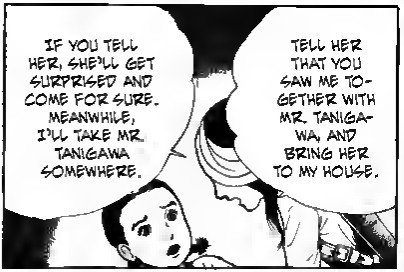
ピシャ




WHAT?!
THAT MAN DIED... HE KILLED HIMSELF HE DASHED OUT IN FRONT OF A DUMP TRUCK AND GOT RUN OVER.


I NEED YOU TO LURE HER OUT FOR ME, RYOUKO.
NOW IT'S MR. TANIGAWA'S WIFE'S TURN.

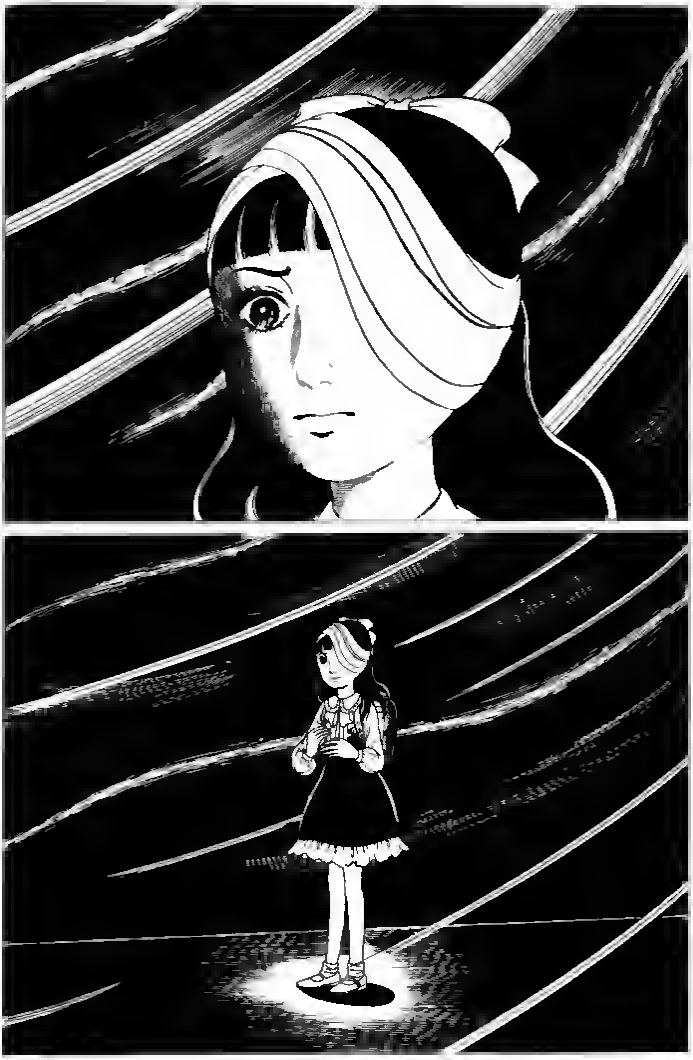
WHAT ARE YOU ACTING SO SURPRISED FOR?

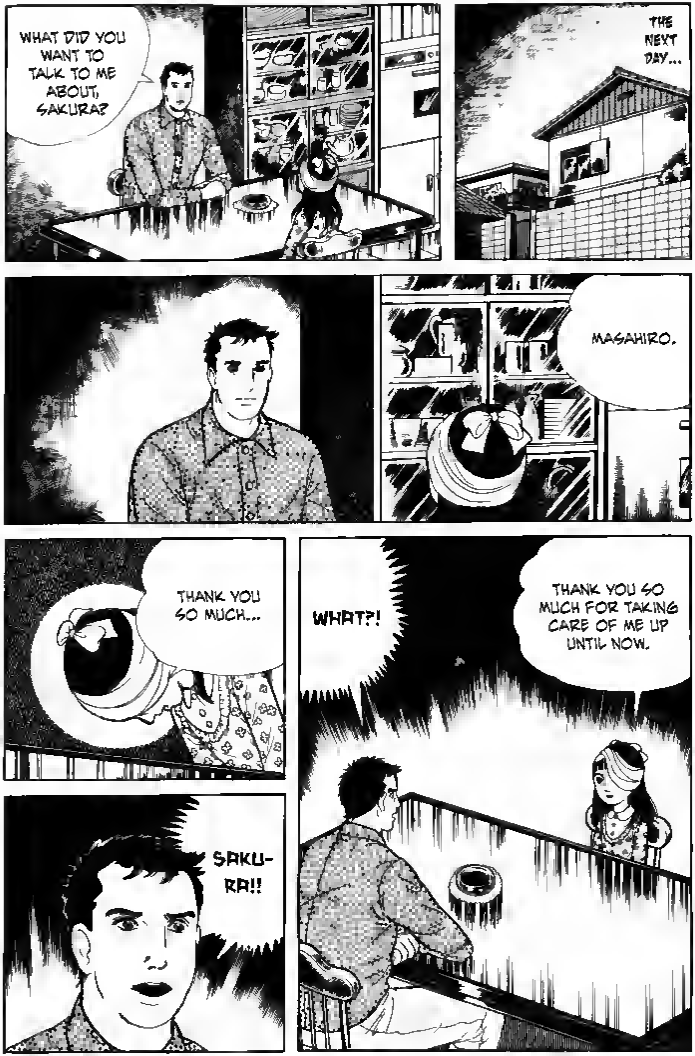

IF YOU TELL HER, SHE'LL GET SURPRISED AND COME FOR SURE. MEANWHILE, I'LL TAKE MR. TANIGAWA SOMEWHERE.
TELL HER THAT YOU SAW ME TOGETHER WITH MR. TANIGAWA, AND BRING HER TO MY HOUSE.

RYOUKO.
N-NO. N-NO ONE DID...
NO ONE NOTICED ME LEAVE YOUR HOUSE, RIGHT?
YOU CAN OPEN IT.
I THINK I'LL GET GOING NOW.
Y-YES?
SFX: CREAK
DID YOU GET A LOT OF STUDYING DONE?
I'M GOING HOME NOW. THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME STAY HERE SO LATE.
SEE YOU TO-MORROW...
GOODBYE, RYOUKO.
YES.

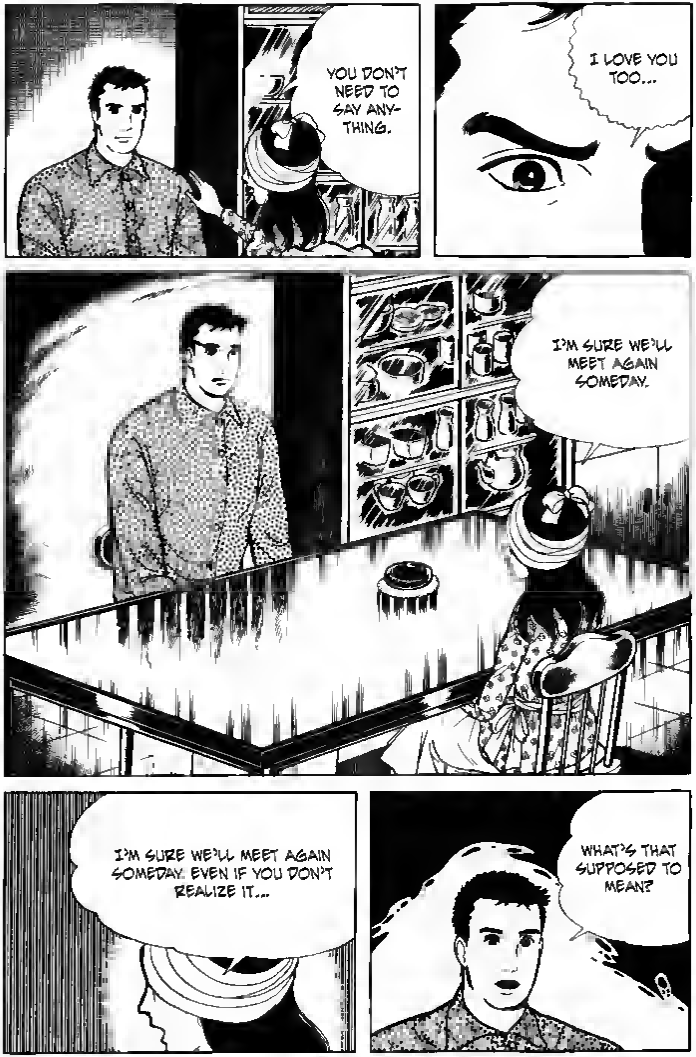
O-OK...
SFX: SLAM
WHY IS SHE STILL WEARING THOSE BANDAGES?
I THOUGHT SHE ONLY GOT A LITTLE HURT.
バタン
I CAN'T KEEP HIDING THIS FOREVER...

MY ONLY CHOICE NOW IS TO BECOME KAZUYO...
LOOK AT ALL THESE WRINKLES...
EVEN IF IT ENDS UP THE SAME WAY AS THIS DID...




WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT, SAKURA?
THE NEXT DAY...
MASAHIRO.
THANK YOU SO MUCH...
WHAT?!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING CARE OF ME UP UNTIL NOW.
SAKU-RA!!

I'M LEAVING THIS PLACE...
WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WELL...
WH-WHY?
BECAUSE I THINK I'D RATHER LIVE ON MY OWN.
SAKURA...
BUT I LOVE YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART...


YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY ANY-THING.
I LOVE YOU TOO...
I'M SURE WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY.
I'M SURE WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY. EVEN IF YOU DON'T REALIZE IT...
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

I'M LEAVING TODAY.
I'VE DECIDED TO FOLLOW MY MOTHER AND GO ON A JOURNEY MYSELF.
AND I HAVE ONE LAST REQUEST FOR YOU BEFORE I GO.
WHAT IS IT?
OF COURSE.
JUST ONE REQUEST... WILL YOU LISTEN TO IT?
SURE.
DON'T TELL YOUR WIFE ABOUT THIS FOR A WHILE...

THAT'S FINE. I PROMISE I WILL.
AND I WANT YOU TO KEEP MY DESK AND MY CLOTHING HERE FOR A BIT.
I GUESS I DON'T NEED TO WEAR THIS WIG ANY-MORE.
OH, WHAT A RELIEF.
I'M SURE YOU ALREADY FIGURED IT OUT, THOUGH.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN ME LIKE THIS, ISN'T IT?
I FEEL SO RELIEVED.

IF YOU EVER SEE ANOTHER MARK LIKE THIS AGAIN,
YOU'LL KNOW IT'S ME.
THIS IS WHAT MY MOTHER GAVE ME
I CAN'T.
YOU WON'T TELL ME WHY?
NOW, I'D LIKE TO GO SOMEWHERE AND HAVE MY LAST DINNER WITH YOU.
OK...
BESIDES, THERE'S NO PARTICULAR REASON. ALL CHILDREN RESEMBLE THEIR PARENTS IN SOME WAY, RIGHT? THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.

THIS SHOULD DO.
レストラン
Corner
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. I FEEL A BIT TIRED, SO I'M GOING TO BUY SOME MEDICINE.
AND TELL THEM TO MAKE IT WELL DONE
CAN YOU ORDER A BEEF STEW FOR ME?
SFX: CREAK
SFX: KNOCK X2
I'LL GIVE YOU A BIG TIP IF YOU DO.
I NEED YOU TO HURRY. MY MOTHER'S SICK.
トン トン
EXCUSE ME!

SFX: VROOOOM V2
STOP HERE.
SFX: CLICK
I NEED TO HURRY AND FINISH BEFORE RYOUKO AND KAZUYO ARRIVE.

KAZUYO SHOULD RECOGNIZE THIS IMMEDIATELY.
AFTER ALL, THIS IS A PRESENT SHE GAVE HER HUSBAND...
SFX: CLICK
SFX: CREAK
I NEED TO HURRY. THEY SHOULD BE HERE SOON

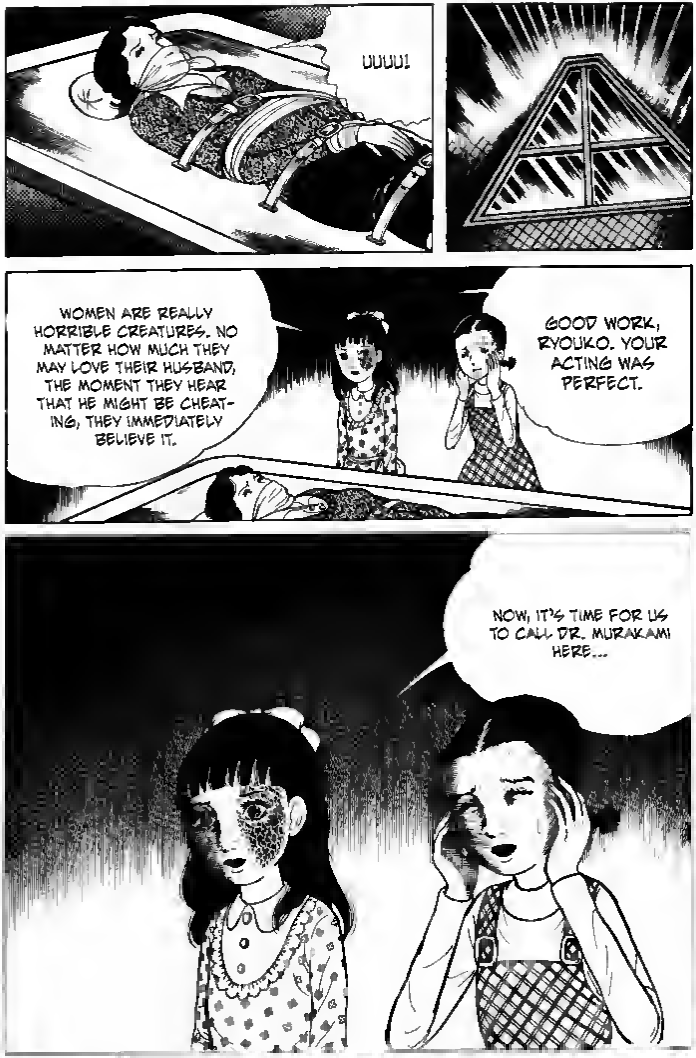
TH-THERE...
SFX: SCREECH
IN THERE.

Y-YES...
YOU REALLY SAW THEM TOGETHER?
AHHH!!
I TRIED TO CALL THE HOUSE, BUT NO ONE ANSWERED...
OH MY! THIS IS HIS LIGHTER!

SFX. CREAK
HIS SHIRT!!

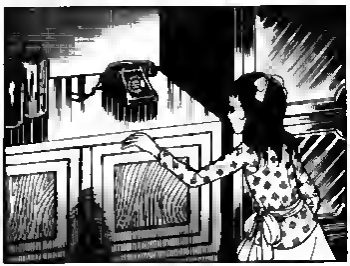
SFX: CRUNCH
KYAAA AHH!!
HO HO HO HO...
HO HO HO.

KYAA AHHH!!
DON'T BOTHER. I TIED THE ROPE EXTRA TIGHT.
SFX: YANK
OWW! STOP IT!!
MOVING AROUND WILL ONLY MAKE HURT MORE.
SETTLE DOWN, OR I'LL KEEP HURTING YOU.
SFX: THUD


UUUU!
WOMEN ARE REALLY HORRIBLE CREATURES. NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY MAY LOVE THEIR HUSBAND, THE MOMENT THEY HEAR THAT HE MIGHT BE CHEATING, THEY IMMEDIATELY BELIEVE IT.
GOOD WORK, RYOUKO. YOUR ACTING WAS PERFECT.
NOW, IT'S TIME FOR US TO CALL DR. MURAKAMI HERE...

...AND START THE SURGERY...

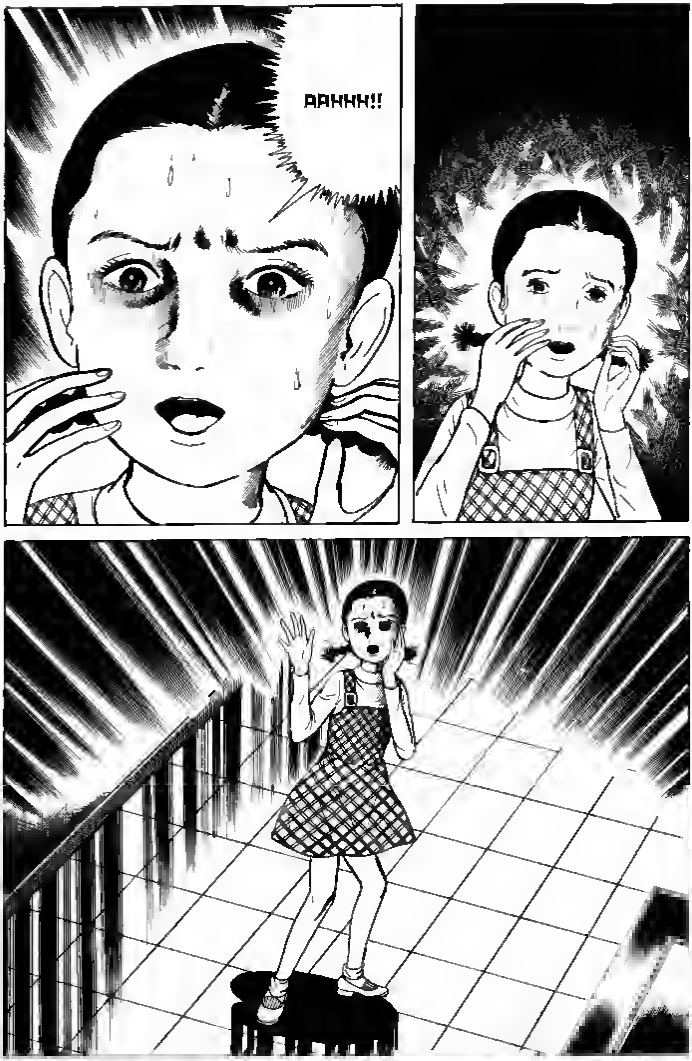
Y-YES...
RYOUKO, YOU MADE SURE ALL THE DOORS AND WINDOWS WERE LOCKED, RIGHT?



WE NEED TO CALL DR. MURAKAMI AT ONCE. HE'S WAITING.

CLANG
ジャジャ
ガチャ

DOCTOR!! IT'S ME.
HELLO?
PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE.

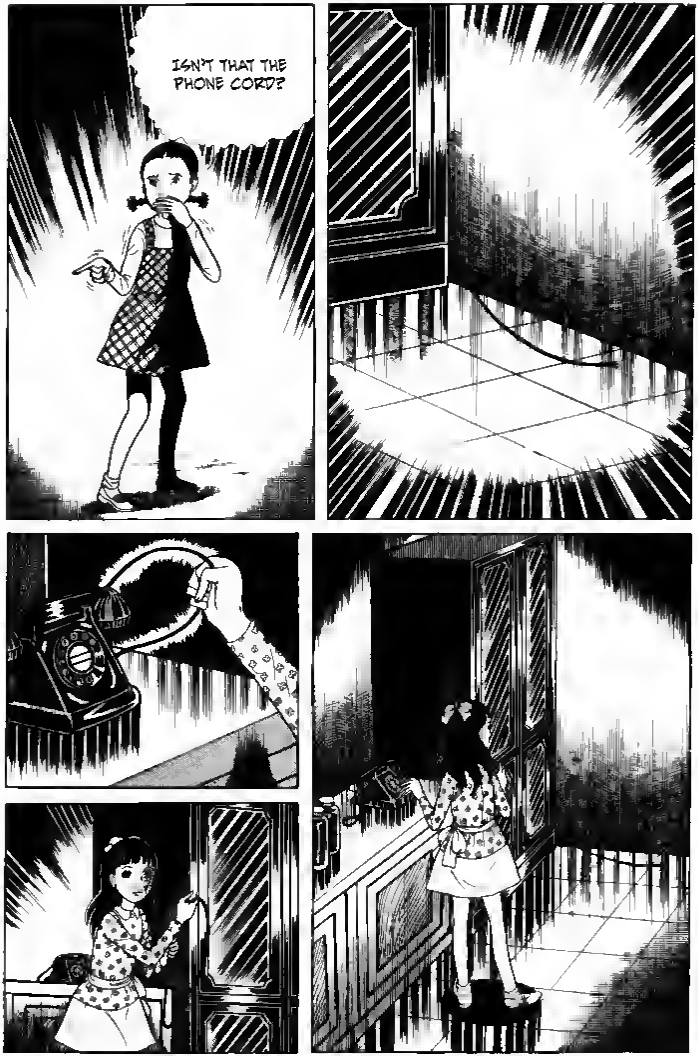

AAHHH!!

WE'RE WAITING ON YOU NOW.
YES... THERE'S ANOTHER GIRL HERE... BUT YOU NEEDN'T WORRY.
SFX: CLING

SAKURA!!
S-SAKURA!
HE'S COMING BY TAXI.
HE'LL BE HERE SOON.
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU MAKING SUCH A STRANGE FACE FOR, RYOUKO?

WHAT? WHY DO YOU LOOK SO SHOCKED?
SAKURA, YOU... YOU...
DR. MURA-KAMI...
WH-WHO... WHO WERE... WHO WERE YOU JUST TALKING WITH?
YES.
IS-IS HE REALLY COMING HERE?
Y-YOU'RE LYING...
HE JUST TOLD ME HE WAS.

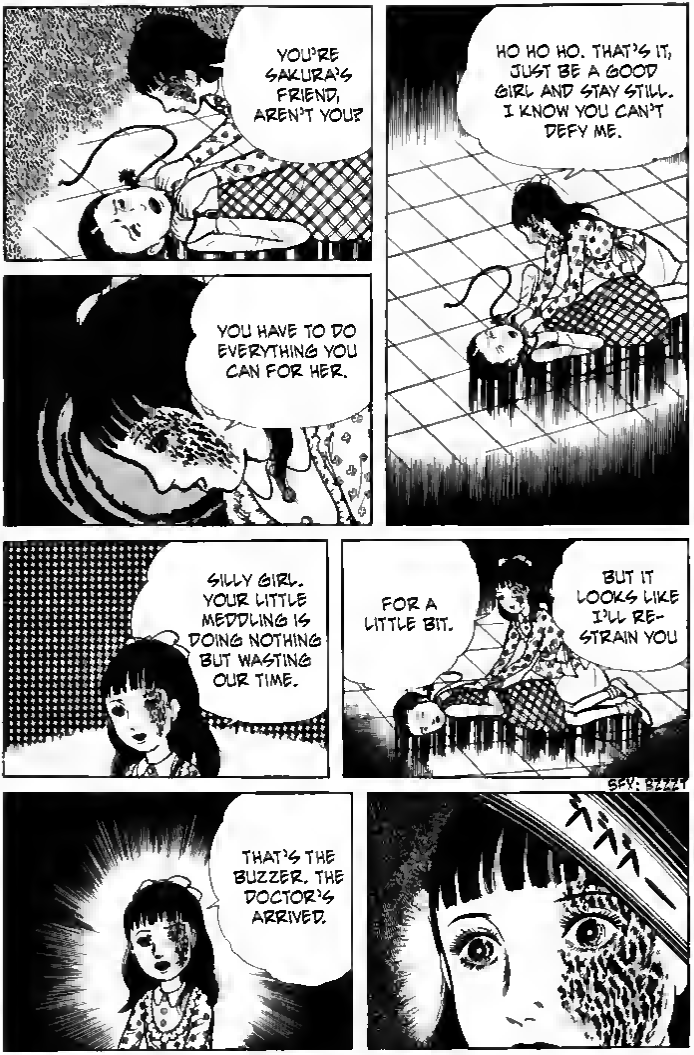
HMPH. WHAT A STUPID LITTLE GIRL. WHAT ARE YOU ACTING SO SCARED FOR?
LYING ABOUT WHAT?
B-BUT...

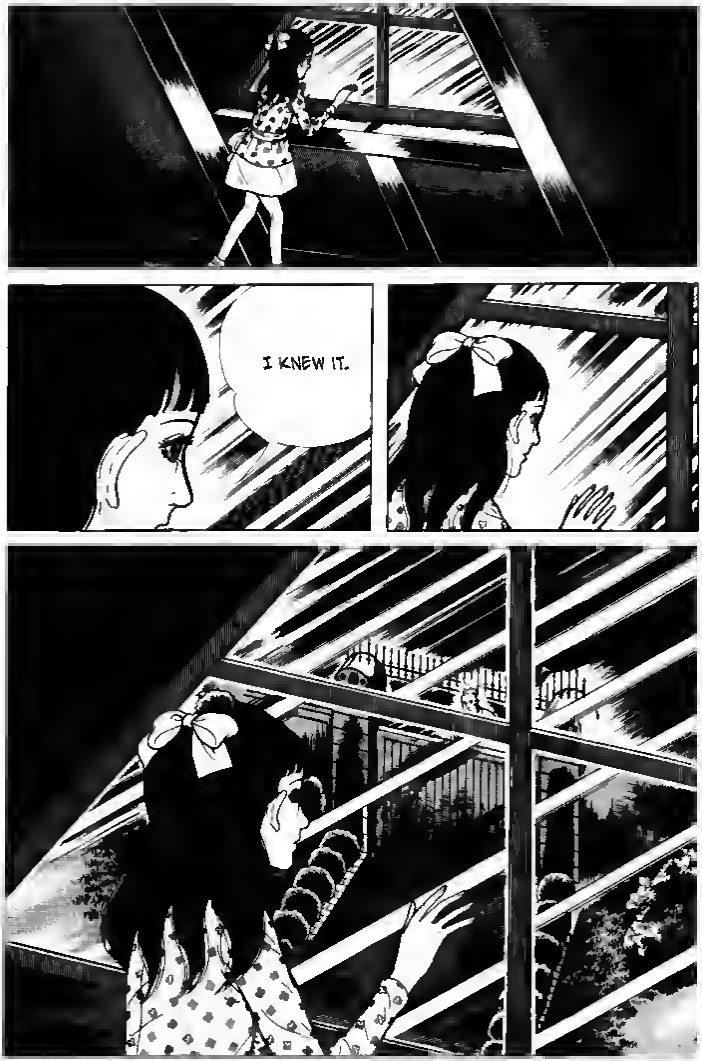

ISN'T THAT THE PHONE CORD?

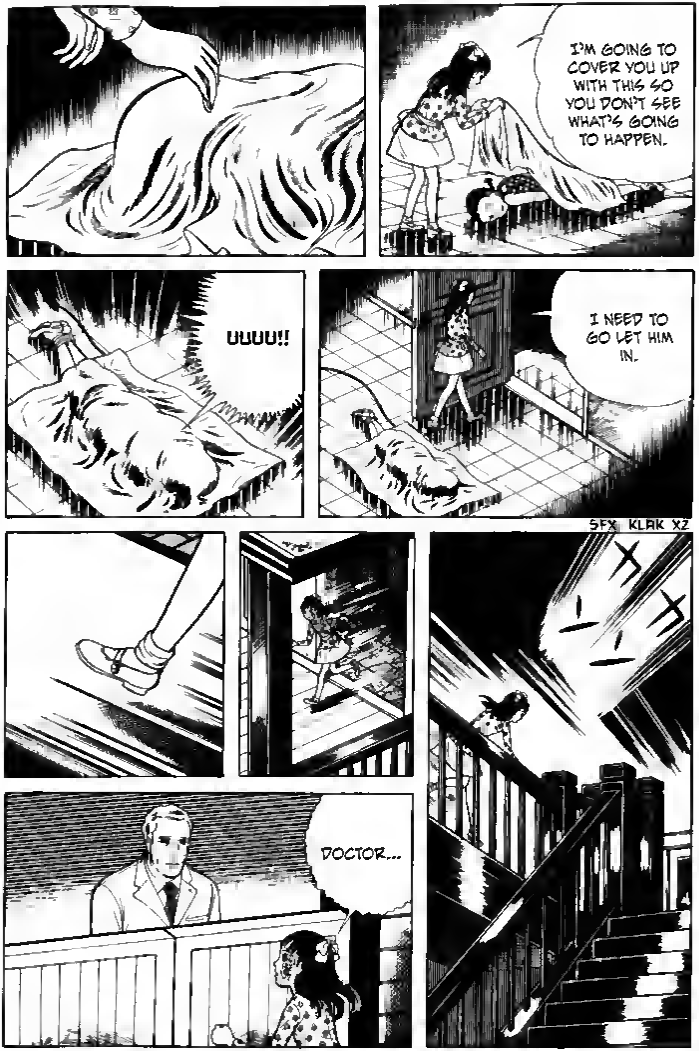
AHHH...
S-SAKURA...
UUUUU!!
I'M POSITIVE THAT I JUST SPOKE TO THE DOCTOR ON THE PHONE.
HMPH! BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

YOU PULLED THE CORD OUT, DIDN'T YOU?
I KNOW... RYOUKO...
N-NO, I DIDN'T!!
YOU WAITED UNTIL I FINISHED TALKING AND THEN PULLED IT OUT ON PURPOSE, DIDN'T YOU?
SFX: CLANG
NO!!
ガチャン
YES YOU DID. THAT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION I CAN THINK OF. YOU'RE PLOTTING SOMETHING!
S-SAKURA...

TH-THAT HURTS!
I'M NOT SAKURA!
UUU...
TELL ME...
WHY? WHY DID YOU DO IT?!
UUUU!!
OR I'LL SQUEEZE IT REALLY TIGHT!
TELL ME RIGHT NOW!
BUT IT'S TOO LATE NOW.
YOU WANTED TO SAVE KAZUYO, DIDN'T YOU?


YOU'RE SAKURA'S FRIEND, AREN'T YOU?
HO HO HO. THAT'S IT, JUST BE A GOOD GIRL AND STAY STILL. I KNOW YOU CAN'T DEFY ME.
YOU HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN FOR HER.
SILLY GIRL. YOUR LITTLE MEDDLING IS DOING NOTHING BUT WASTING OUR TIME.
FOR A LITTLE BIT.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL RE-STRAIN YOU
SFX: BZZZZ
THAT'S THE BUZZER. THE DOCTOR'S ARRIVED.
SFX: ナースコール


I KNEW IT.


I'M GOING TO COVER YOU UP WITH THIS SO YOU DON'T SEE WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.
UUUU!!
I NEED TO GO LET HIM IN.
SFX: KLAK XZ
DOCTOR...

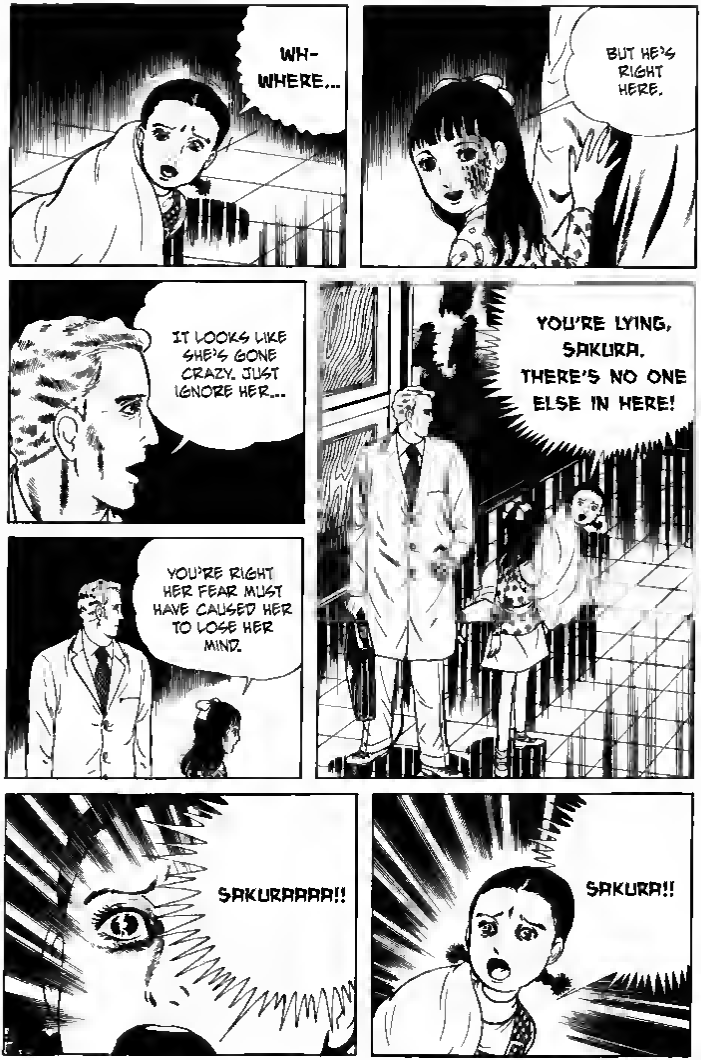
SFX: CREAK
SFX KLAK X2

SFX CREAK
ギィ

AND THAT'S KAZUYO.
DOCTOR, THIS IS RYOUKO...
I SEE...
UUUUU!!
UUU...
SHE'S SHIVERING.

THE SURGERY TOOLS ARE OVER THERE...
I WANT YOU TO START AT ONCE...
I'VE PREPARED EVERYTHING.
THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE. I WANT YOU TO GIVE IT YOUR ALL, DOCTOR!

S-SAKURA!!
THIS IS MY LAST REQUEST FOR YOU.
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?!
WHO...
DR. MURAKAMI, OF COURSE.
WHAT?
I-I DON'T S-SEE HIM ANY-WHERE...
WHAT?! WH-WHERE IS HE?
WHO ELSE WOULD I BE TALKING TO?


WH-WHERE...
BUT HE'S RIGHT HERE.
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GONE CRAZY. JUST IGNORE HER...
YOU'RE LYING, SAKURA. THERE'S NO ONE ELSE IN HERE!
YOU'RE RIGHT HER FEAR MUST HAVE CAUSED HER TO LOSE HER MIND.
SAKURAAAA!!
SAKURA!!

NOW YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WATCH ALL OF THE HORRIBLE THINGS THAT ARE ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
YOU'RE SUCH A FOOL. WHY DID YOU PULL IT OFF AFTER I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO COVER YOU UP?
NOW, LET'S BEGIN AT ONCE.
UUUU!!
HAND ME THE ANESTHETIC.
I'LL START IMMEDIATELY.
I DESTROYED THE OPERATING TABLES AFTER THE FIRST TIME, AND IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO PUT THEM BACK TOGETHER.

SFX: CLINK
ガチャ
SFX: CREAK X2
ギッ
ギッ
UUU!
UUUU!!
SHE'S TRYING TO GET AWAY!
SFX: RIP
ビリッ
UUUUUU!!
PLEASE HOLD HER DOWN, DOCTOR!!

I'LL DO IT!!
HOLD HER DOWN TIGHTER!!
UUUU!!
UUUU!!
NOT THERE. YOU NEED TO START FROM THE ARCH OF HER FOOT.
THERE!
UUUUUUU!!

SFX KYAAAAHHH
STOO
OP!!
STOP
THAT!!

SAKURA, STOP IT!!
SAKU-RA!!
AHHH!!
YOU TRICKED ME!!
WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?!
MASA-HIRO!
MR. TANI-GAWA!!

LET GO OF THE NEEDLES!!
DR. MURA-KAMI, HELP ME!!
SAKU-RA!!
WAKE UP! WAKE UP,
THERE'S NO ONE ELSE HERE!!
NO ONE'S GOING TO COME TO HELP YOU!! NOW WAKE UP!!
DOCTOR!! DR. MURAKAMI, HELP ME!!